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TOURISTS' GUIDE  
TO ESSEX  

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WALFORD







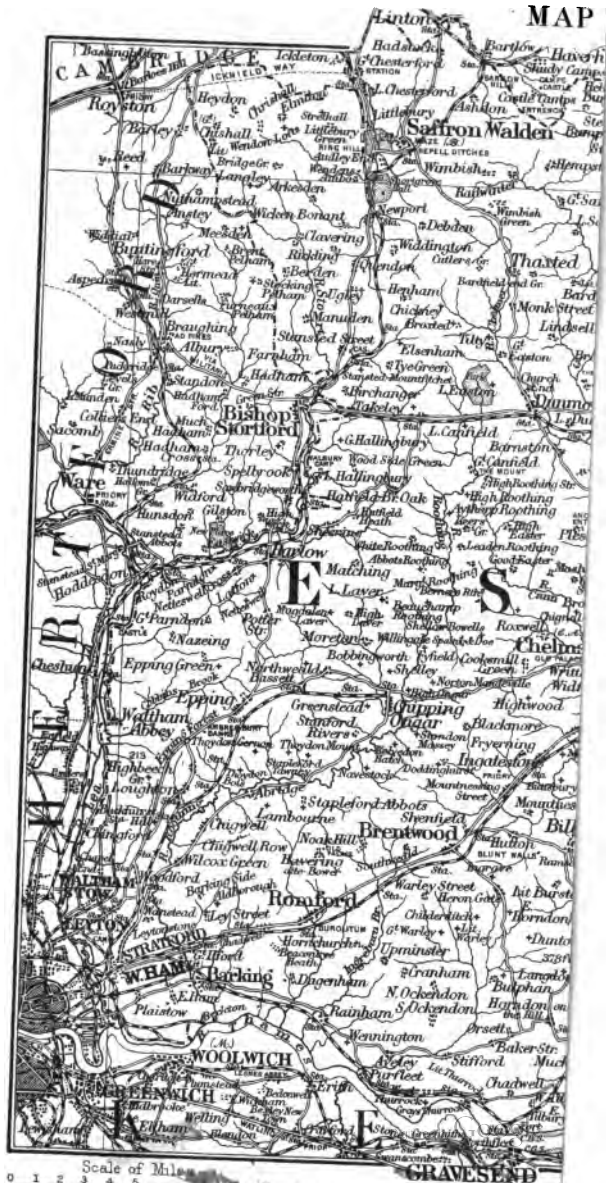
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# MAP



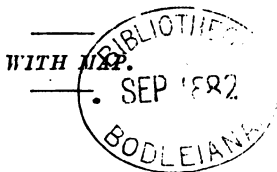
# TOURIST'S GUIDE TO ESSEX.

WITH SOME

PRELIMINARY REMARKS AS TO ITS EARLY  
HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES, WORTHIES,  
ETC., ETC.

BY

EDWARD WALFORD, M.A.,  
EDITOR OF "THE COUNTY FAMILIES," "ANTIQUARIAN MAGAZINE," ETC.



LONDON :  
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—  
1882.

*Gough Add. Essex*  
*8. 46.*



## PREFACE.

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LITTLE is required in the way of preface or introduction in a work of such modest pretensions as the present, beyond the bare fact that the antiquarian portion of it has been derived from the best authorities who have written on the history of the county, among whom the name of Morant stands pre-eminent. Besides his "History of Essex," I have consulted the several local guides to Harwich, Colchester, and Chelmsford; the "Book of the Thames;" Skrine's "English Rivers;" "The Land we Live in;" Knight's "English Cyclopædia;" Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of England and Wales;" Camden's "Britannia;" Lysons' "Environs of London;" Wright's "History and Topography of Essex;" Parliamentary Report on Essex Charities; Kelly's "Post Office Directory of Essex;" the "Beauties of England and Wales;" Cook's "Topography;" &c.

E. WALFORD, M.A.

*Hampstead, June, 1882.*



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# TOURIST'S GUIDE TO ESSEX.

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## GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

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ALTHOUGH this county cannot boast of romantic or beautiful scenery, yet it contains much that is of interest to the tourist who is contented with quiet English scenery of a homely type, and a succession of undulating and well-wooded slopes seldom rising into lofty hills. Along much of its southern, eastern, and western borders it is fringed by marshes and meadows, which lie low, and are flat and aguish; but the interior districts are pleasantly diversified, and may be advantageously compared with many parts of Suffolk and even of Norfolk.

"The great home county of Essex is less explored by tourists than almost any other part of England. Seen from the Thames, it must be owned that its margin is not inviting, and the road to it, through Spitalfields, Mile End, and Stratford, is so dull, flat, and poverty-stricken, that few visitors care to pass along it. And yet Essex has claims on our notice; it has quiet but decided beauties, such as Chigwell Row (or Rough), the Laindon and Danbury Hills, and the picturesque forests of Epping and Hainault. Within their shade rose Havering-atte-Bower, once the residence of Edward the Confessor, and Wanstead House and Park, where an exiled king found a princely home. Within the last few years the wood-cutter's axe has been busy among the hornbeams and other trees, and the deer-trodden thickets are fast disappearing before modern improvements."—*Once a Week*, 1860.

In spite of the flat and low lands of its western and southern borders, Mr. Collier writes in his "People's History of Essex": "Delightful views may be obtained at



Little Baddow, Brentwood, Danbury, and near Thaxted and Epping, by those who love to look upon rural scenery, rich with farms and woodlands, and studded here and there with villages and hamlets."

In the early period of our history the greater part of Essex was one extensive *forest*. During the British and Roman governments many parts must have been cleared for stations, roads, and cultivation; yet in the time of Stephen it appears that the principal portion of the county was either forest or subject to forest laws. In his reign, however, a large tract in the north-east part of the county was disafforested, and cultivated; and the remaining part, north of Stane Street, was disafforested by King John. Henry the Third, in the twelfth year of his reign, directed perambulations to be taken of Waltham Forest, in order to ascertain its extent and value, and about the same time had large tracts cleared for the plough. This plan was pursued by Edward I. Yet much forest land still remained; and Paul, Viscount Bayning, with many other gentlemen of the county, purchased of the Crown, and disafforested several parts of it. These proceedings, combined with the more equitable decisions of subsequent monarchs, occasioned the forests to contract their boundaries to the great advantage of the public. Whilst the forests continued in the Crown, and were under the local government of arbitrary foresters and stewards, the subject whose estate was contiguous suffered repeated oppressions. The grievance was partly redressed in the perilous reign of King John, when the barons compulsively procured from that monarch the *Charter of Forests*, by which several were "disafforested" and stripped of their oppressive privileges.

The post of chief forester of Essex was usually held by one of the greater nobles of the kingdom. For many generations it belonged to the De Veres. The chief forester appointed deputies in each "baili-wick" of the forest, and he was keeper of Havering-atte-Bower, its royal house and park.

#### EARLY HISTORY.

In historic and antiquarian interest Essex is inferior to few English counties. According to "*Magna Britannia*," this was the least and weakest of the Saxon kingdoms,

who, almost from their first settlement, were ever warring and encroaching on each other; and so it was always a feudatory either to the kingdom of Kent or to Mercia, till it was subdued by Egbert, and made a province of the West Saxon kings; yet it bore the face of a principality for 281 years. It was also one of the first kingdoms that embraced Christianity; for King Sebert, being nephew to Ethelbert, king of Kent, was led to become a Christian, and converted the Temple of Diana at London into a Cathedral Church. Even in the days of the Britons Essex is said to have been thickly peopled, though the dwellings of the inhabitants were mere huts, formed of poles cut from the forest weald, and covered with skins. The Britons were great hunters, and doubtless found plenty of fish in the broad estuary of the Thames.

At the time of the Romans, Essex was inhabited by a powerful tribe named the Trinobantes,\* whose sway seems to have extended from the Thames into Middlesex and Hertfordshire, and northward to the Stour, and who are recorded to have been the "bravest people in the island." If this be true, however, there seems to have been treachery amongst them, for it is said that it was by Mandubratius, a prince of the Trinobantes, that Julius Cæsar was invited to invade this island, and that for that purpose he went over to Gaul, hoping to induce his countrymen to submit to the foreign yoke.

Soon afterwards Cassivelaunus rose and repelled the Romans. This, however, was only for a time, and under him and under Cunobeline, the son of Lud, they paid tribute to Rome. He first stamped British coins after the Roman manner. Under Caractacus, his successor, however, the Britons again rebelled, and their king was carried off to Rome to grace a triumph.

When the invasion was renewed under Claudius, the Trinobantes rose against the imperial eagles, and after enduring several severe defeats, retired into the marshes, and there protracted a desperate resistance. When they were finally subdued, their capital, Camalodunum, was taken, and made the seat of a Roman colony, which was, however, destroyed in the revolt under the heroic Queen Boadicea, and its garrison slaughtered. But Boadicea in

\* This is probably the Latinized form of the British word *Tranovantys*, the "dwellers across the water," in reference to the estuary of the Thames, which then severed Essex from Kent.

her turn was defeated by Suetonius (A.D. 61), the whole of South Britain was reduced, and Essex converted into a district of the province of Flavia Cæsariensis, under the Emperor Constantine, whose mother, Helen, is said to have been a native of England. The first defeat of Boadicea is generally supposed to have taken place somewhere between Epping and Waltham Abbey.

From the *Itinerarium* of Antoninus it would appear that the Romans occupied five principal stations within the district of which we write: Camalodunum, Durolitum, Cæsaromagus, Canonium, and Ad Ansam. These places were all situated on the road which formed the fifth iter, from London to Venta Icenorum, in Norfolk. Camalodunum, the principal, is the modern Colchester; Durolitum was near Romford; Cæsaromagus, at Widford, one mile south-west of Chelmsford; and Canonium, near Kelvedon. A Roman *viâ* ran from London to Colchester, nearly in the track of the modern road; and another, the Stane Street, crossed the county from Bishop Stortford, in Herts, by Dunmow, Raine, and Coggeshall, to Colchester. Great Chesterford was also the site of a Roman military colony; and Mersey Island may have been the residence of the *Comes Littoris Saxonix*.

"The Trinobantes, as appears from the testimony of ancient writers, possessed two large cities or fortified stations: one of them occupied the eminence between the Thames and the Fleet Brook, the centre of modern London; the other appears to have been at Colchester." — *Beauties of England and Wales*.

This county was called East Seaxa by the Anglo-Saxons during the Heptarchy, when it probably included London in its area. Its history is rather obscure, being for some reason or other, as Rapin remarks, less noticed by the historians than most of its sister kingdoms. Indeed, the dates of its first establishment and its termination as a Saxon kingdom are uncertain. Mr. Sharon Turner, in his "*Anglo-Saxon History*," states that this and East Anglia were originally occupied by the Saxons at nearly the same time. We read in history how that in or about A.D. 527 Erkenwin erected his conquests in the east of Britain into a kingdom which was called that of "Es-sex," or the "East Saxons." He appears to have reigned down to about A.D. 587. These are meagre details, it must be owned; and perhaps all that is certain is that towards

the middle of the sixth century, or a little earlier, bands of the Angles and Saxons, aided by their countrymen in Kent, drove the unfortunate Britons from the soil, and founded the kingdom of Essex, which, though small in extent, was important, as including the city of London in its limits; and the district was for many years subject to the "Earls of the Saxon shore."

When the Saxons seized upon the green pastures of Flavia Cæsariensis they formed it into a small kingdom, with some parts of Hertfordshire and Middlesex, under the name of Essex, of which London eventually became the capital. About 600, Christianity was embraced by the East Saxon king Sæbyrht and his subjects. The cathedral church of St. Paul's was founded, and Mellitus, one of the companions of St. Augustine, was sent as a missionary into Essex.

Essex was the next kingdom after Kent to accept the Christian faith, and Sebert, or Sibert, its king, established a bishopric at London, where his uncle Ethelbert, king of Kent, built a church, which was dedicated to St. Paul. After Sebert's death, however, his pagan sons expelled the missionaries.

Considering the importance of the kingdom of Essex in the Roman times, as including Camalodunum as well as Augusta, or Londonium, it is strange that it figures so little in the general history of the kingdom. This may be accounted for, however, by the fact that it lay between the greater kingdoms of East Anglia and Cantium, and that its coasts, though largely indented with natural harbours, were not suited, by reason of their low and marshy shores and muddy sandbanks, for military or naval operations.

After the dissolution of the Saxon Heptarchy we find little recorded in history about the county, except that they submitted to the Danes more contentedly than any other part of England.

About A.D. 800, Essex submitted to Egbert, along with the rest of the southern parts of England. Ethelwolf, who succeeded Egbert, had been lieutenant of Essex. It was not till the reign of Alfred that Essex assumed its present limits.

The shores of Essex, as might be expected from their position, suffered severely from the ravages of the Danes, whose galleys annually appeared in their numerous

creeks and estuaries. Essex, therefore, was naturally included in the East Anglian territory, ceded by King Alfred to the Northmen about 878. But the Norse rovers still continued to harass the coast, and the jarl, or sea-king Hastings, built a fort upon Mersey Island, where he seemed resolved to establish an independent state. But after three years of incessant hostility (894-896) he was finally compelled to abandon Essex, which now enjoyed a brief period of tranquillity. Edward the Elder, to terrify its Danish colonists, fortified Witham and Maldon, stormed Colchester, and converted it into a Saxon stronghold (921). For seventy years the county was then at peace; but towards the close of the tenth century the Danes once more flaunted the standard of the Raven on its shores, and at Ashingdon, near Rochford, the prolonged struggle was for a time decided by the severe defeat which the great Dane-king, Canute, inflicted upon Edmund Ironside.

At the time of the Norman Conquest it is said that no less than ninety landowners in Essex were deprived of their estates; these were divided among the companions of William, to whom the inhabitants had submitted, although not without force. The Norman barons doubtless not only governed the district but tyrannized over it, constructing castles on their estates for their own personal security, and to hold in awe their dependent vassals.

Thenceforward the history of the county presents no remarkable incidents, though it suffered severely from the Wars of the Roses, through the De Veres, who strongly espoused the cause of the House of Lancaster. During the minority of Henry III. (A.D. 1218) Colchester fell into the hands of the Dauphin Louis, but was soon recovered. In the reign of Richard II., Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, the king's uncle, was residing at his castle of Pleshey, 6 miles N.W. of Chelmsford. The king visited him there, and on leaving invited him to London. But at Stratford the treacherous prince had placed in ambush the Earl Marshal and his followers, who arrested the duke on a charge of high treason. He was subsequently removed to Calais, and put to death by suffocation; his body being brought back to England and interred in the church which he had founded at Pleshey.

Under Richard II. the men of Essex began the insurrection which ended in Wat Tyler's rebellion; but, write

the authors of "Magna Britannia," "they made some amends for their fault by rising under Sir Charles Lucas, to support King Charles and to prevent his death, and again under Mr. Thomas Fanshaw in 1659, to promote the restoration of Charles II."

During the Civil War, Essex was preserved from its ravages by the association of the Eastern counties, mainly organized by Cromwell. The Royalists, therefore, gained no permanent footing within its limits.

The outline of the chief events of the siege of Colchester in 1648, from its commencement to its conclusion, occupies no less than fourteen or fifteen pages of Morant's "History of Essex;" and no topographical or historical work in the county would be complete without making mention of it, seeing that it was an episode in the Civil War of which the men of Colchester have no reason to feel ashamed. In the British Museum is preserved a cotemporary broadside, illustrated with an engraving giving a bird's-eye view of the town, and showing the disposition of the contending forces. This broadside is entitled "A Diary and Plan of the Siege of Colchester, by the Parliament Forces, under the command of General Fairfax, 1648."

It may be added that this county of Hertfordshire was united under the jurisdiction of one high sheriff, from the first year of Henry II. down to the ninth of Elizabeth, when George Tuke was declared sheriff of Essex only.

*Titles.*—The Earldom of Essex has been held in succession by the Mandevilles, De Bohuns, Plantagenets, Bouchiers, Cromwells (1539—40), Parrs (1543—71) Devereuxes (1572—1646) and Capels (1661). Malden gives a second title, that of Viscount, to the Capels; Tilbury gave the title of Lord Vere of Tilbury to Sir Horatio Vere, *temp.* Charles I.; and Harwich that of Baron to Hill, Marquis of Donegall. Rochford gave an Earldom to the De Zulesteins, or Nassaus, but it became extinct in 1880. Walden gives the Barony of Howard de Walden to the Ellis family. The Maynards took their Viscounty (extinct in 1865) from Easton; and Lord Petre is Baron Petre of Writtle; Lord Western was created in 1888 Lord Western of Rivenhall; and the Barony of Rayleigh was conferred on the Strutts in 1821. Mr. Charles Abbott, Speaker of the House of Commons, was created in 1817 Lord Colchester, his father having held a living in that

town. In the last century the Olmuis family held the Barony of Waltham, in the Irish Peerage.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

It is enough for us to know that Essex was inhabited in early times, though a very large portion of it was a forest, even down to a period which is quite within the records of history. We know that there was a Roman road connecting the head-quarters of the Roman army at Maldon and Colchester, with Londinium and Verulamium; the former road probably following as nearly as possible the route of the high road (and also of the rail-road) from London to Chelmsford and Colchester, and the latter crossing the centre of the county near Dunmow.

Essex contains no cathedral city, and its county-town does not even rise to the dignity of a borough; but it embraces within its circuit the ancient Camalodunum, the Colonia of the Romans; the castles of Hedingham, Colchester, Pleshey, Hadleigh, and Rayleigh; the noble mansion of Audley End, a rival to Penshurst or Wilton; the scanty remains of the once powerful abbeys of Barking, St. Osyth's, and Waltham Holy Cross; St. Botolph's Priory; and until half a century ago it could boast of Wanstead House, no unworthy match for "princely Canons."

Formerly there were in this county eleven castles, or fortified buildings, three of which have been styled royal castles, or built for national security. These were Colchester, Hadleigh, and Tilbury Fort. The others were castellated mansions, all formed for greater strength and security. These were, according to "Britton's Beauties of England," Canfield and Hedingham, belonging to the De Veres, Earls of Oxford; Clavering and Rayleigh, belonging to Suene, or Swayn (who possessed besides fifty-three other lordships in Essex); Pleshey, first possessed by the Duke of Gloucester, High Constable of England; Stanstead Montfichets, held by the Montfichets; and Walden, to Geoffrey de Mandeville, at the time of the Domesday survey. "These very formidable fortresses," adds Mr. Britton, "though once the pride of the nobles and the terror of the peasantry, are mostly levelled with the ground. The only parts remaining are their high keeps and wide fosses."

The memorials of the *British* and *Roman* periods of

the history of Essex are sufficiently numerous, but are almost wholly military; such as the camp at Ambresbury, near Epping; at South Weald, near Brentwood; and at Pleshey, near Chelmsford. Roman fortifications may be traced at Colchester, near Kelvedon, and at Great Chesterford. Traces of the imperial colonists have also been discovered at Wanstead; at Canewden; at Coggeshall; at Toppesfield; at Ridgwell; at Watsoe Bridge, on the Stour, where there is a camp; and at Maldon. On the high road between Romford and Brentwood are Hare Street, and Brook Street, names which imply a Roman Road, *stratum*.

To the *Saxon* and *Danish* era may be referred the camp at Danbury (Danes-byrig), S.E. of Chelmsford; at Maldon; at Witham; at Uphall, near Barking; at Canewden; and Blunts Walls, near Billericay.

*Norman*.—There are several interesting remains of the feudal fortalices erected at Pleshey (by William de Magnaville), Hadleigh, Clavering, Colchester, Castle Hedingham, Walden, Ongar, and Rayleigh.

*Mediæval*.—Of the halls and manor houses which gradually succeeded to the keep and donjon of the warrior-knight, but were still stout enough and massive enough for easy conversion into defensive strongholds, we may enumerate, Heron Hall, near East Horndon; Toppinghoe Hall, near Witham; Layer Marney Hall, and Tolleshunt Magna; Nether Hall, near Roydon; Belhus House, near Purfleet; and Eastbury, near Barking. Other interesting mansions will be found duly noticed under the districts to which they respectively belong. Of early Tudor mansions, Essex has some fine specimens, including Gosfield and Horham Halls, and New Hall at Boreham. Most of these are built of bricks, stone not being a product of the county. Audley End is perhaps the only Jacobean mansion of any note or importance.

There are on an average some three "halls" in every Essex parish, when, according to the original theory, of the "hall" being the residence of the Lord of the Manor, there ought to be only one!

## ECCLESIASTICAL.

Essex, as compared with many other counties, was rich in monastic houses, but for the most part the work of



destruction at the Reformation and at the hands of the Puritans was so complete that there are but scanty traces now of their magnificence.

At the Reformation, Essex possessed the following religious houses, whose ruins may still be explored by the zealous antiquarian: Barking Abbey; St. Osyth's Priory; Coggeshall Abbey; St. Botolph's Priory and St. John's Abbey, Colchester; Stratford Langthorne Abbey; Walden Abbey; and Waltham Abbey. Two of the above, namely, Colchester and Waltham, were mitred Abbeys, whose abbots held seats in Parliament as such. Of other houses of which ruins are also extant, the most interesting are—Bileigh Abbey, chiefly Perp. (near Malden); Tiltey Priory, now used as the parish ch., Decor.; Bicknacre Priory, between Maldon and Chelmsford, Early Eng.; Latton Priory, Decor.; Lees Priory, near Braintree, a Perp. gatehouse; Blackmore Priory Ch.; and Hatfield Peverel Priory Ch., partly Norman.

Within the county there were other and smaller religious houses of various orders; at Malden, Chelmsford, Dunmow, Grey Friars, Colchester, Hatfield Broad Oak, Little Hawkesley, West Mersea, Panfield, Prittlewell, Stansgate, Takeley, Tiptree, Thoby, Thremhall, Heddingham, Wickes, Halstead, Pleshey, and Layer Marney.

There were also preceptories of the Templars at Cressing, and Maplestead; and Hospitals or Colleges at Bocking, Brook Street, South Weald, Crutched Friars, Hornchurch, Ilford, Walden, Newport, Maldon, and St. Mary Magdalen, Colchester. Most of these will be briefly described in the following pages.

Of the Churches of Essex, we may indicate the following as most worthy of the attention of the ecclesiologist and architect: Greenstead Ch., near Ongar; Little Maplestead; South Ockendon; and Corringham.

The Churches have no prevailing type, being of all dates, from Norman downwards, though in the towns there are several fine specimens of the Perpendicular style with lofty spires, wooden and shingled spires prevail in the country parishes, the Churches of which are mostly small and poor. Dunmow, Thaxted, and Saffron Walden are to be exempted from this statement, being remarkable for their handsome Churches of the same Early Perpendicular type, with tall spires.

Mr. Bloxam observes in his "Gothic Architecture"

that, owing to the absence of stone, the Essex Churches are poor in style and appearance, wood being frequently used for their belfries, porches, &c.

DIALECT.

The dialect spoken by the lower and middle classes in Essex is marked by a combination of a drawl and a nasal twang, which is anything but pleasant to an educated ear. *A* is constantly substituted for *o*, as "good marning" for "morning," "warld" for "world;" *ow* for *ou*, as "yow" for "you;" *u* for *o*, as "sput" for "spot;" *w* supplies the place of *v*; *e* or *oi*, of *i*, as "stell" for "still," "whoile" for "while." And there are many words which are peculiar to the county, as "wolf," in the sense of a culvert; "wennel," a young ox or calf; "wape," pale; "sliver," splinter; "slud," mire; "slump," fall in the mud; "boine," a swelling.

The following table of a few characteristic provincialisms is mainly drawn from Dr. Charnock's "Glossary of the Essex Dialect," published by Trübner in 1880:

Baujy—dull, gloomy; *e.g.*, day.

Bont—an old man; from the Anglo-Saxon, *Bonda*, a husband-man or boor.

Cad—the least pig of the litter; *e.g.*, cad pig.

Chops—the lips.

Chuckfull—quite full, crammed.

Crake—to boast, brag; Fr., *craquer*.

Crock—a pot or kettle.

Dubs—money. Cf., dub up!

Favour, To—to resemble personally.

Feard, or Afeard—afraid (but this is common in Shakespeare).

Foizon—plenty ("Africa with all her foisons." C. Lamb).

Gab—idle talk. "Hold your gab."

Goel—yellow.

Golls—the hands.

Hainish—unpleasant, "hainish weather."

Hunks—a miser.

Jacob—a frog.

Lugsome—heavy, cumbersome.

Mad—an earthworm.

Mob-cap—morning cap. "The mobbed queen."

Swipes—middling beer.

Thussius—in this way, thus.

Want—a crossroad.

Warsley—not much, or vastly.

Whistle—the throat.

Wonderful—very; "a wonderful fine day!"

Wusser, wust—comparative and superlative degrees of bad.

There are several quaint phrases, proverbs, and provincialisms in use in Essex, some of which have fastened themselves on to the names of places; of these, however, we can mention only a few:—

*Dovercourt*.—The phrase “it’s Dovercourt, all talkers and no hearers,” points to the miraculous rood which spoke and uttered oracles:

“I’m not a man ordain’d for Dovercourt,  
For I’m a hearer still where I resort.”  
*Stephenson’s “Norfolk Drollery,” 1673.*

The same phrase occurs in Brampton’s “Art of Politics,” published early in the last century:

“Church nor church matters never turn to sport,  
Nor make St. Stephen’s Chapel Dovercourt.”

*Romford*.—“Go to Romford to have your breeches new-seated.” This proverb arose from the fact of Romford being famous for tailors.

*Waltham*.—There is a saying current in Essex, “as wise as a Waltham calf,” of which the story goes that it went nine miles to suck a bull and came back as dry as it went. Some think that the phrase contains a covert sneer at some miraculous image at the Abbey.

*Ugley*.—Here is a current phrase:

“Ugly church, ugly steeple,  
Ugly parson, ugly people.”

*Yange Monday*.—The parish register of Stifford contains the entry of a baptism on “Yange Monday.” “Gang Monday” was the Monday in Rogation week, when the parishioners doubtless “ganged,” or went in procession. In the North of England this week is called “Gangtide.”

In the *East Anglian Notes and Queries*, October, 1858, the following proverb is given as peculiar to the three Eastern counties:

“Essex miles, Suffolk stiles, Norfolk wiles,  
Many men beguiles.”

The Essex natives, learned or unlearned, notwithstanding the peculiarities here referred to, have at all events a good opinion of themselves; for if any one shows signs of stupidity they say that he comes from “the shires.”

In a paper in the *Edinburgh Review* for April, 1844,

entitled "Provincialisms of the European Languages," the writer puts down the provincial words used in Essex at 589. "In some parts of the county," observes Dr. Charnock in his "Glossary," "the dialect resembles that of Kent; in others, that of Suffolk. It is, however, not generally so broad as either, nor is it spoken with the strong whining tone of the Suffolk dialect." It is asserted that nearly one-half of "Gammer Gurton's Needle" is written in the Essex dialect; and many of the most difficult words and phrases are contained in Mr. Charles Clark's Ballad of "John Noakes and Mary Styles," from which the following is a quotation:

COCK-A-BEVIS HILL.

At Tottum's Cock-a-Bevis Hill,  
A sput suppass'd by few,  
Where doddlers ollis haut to eye  
The proper, pritty wiew.

Where people crake so ov the place,  
Leasways so I've hard say,  
An' from its top yow sarteny  
Can see a monsus way.

'Bout this oad hill I warrant ya  
Their bog it niver ceases;  
They'd growl shud yow nut own that it  
Beats Danbury's au' to pieces.

But no sense ov a place, some think,  
To this here hill so high,  
Cos there, full oft, 'tis nation coad,  
But that don't argufy.

Yit, if they inquirations maake  
In winter time, some will  
Condemn that place as *no great shakes*,  
Where folks ha' the *coad-chill*!

As sum dy, 'haps, when nigh the sput,  
May ha' a wish to see't,  
From Mauldon town to Keldon 'tis  
An' 'gin a four releet.

Where up the road the load it goos  
So lugsome an' so stiff  
That hosses mostly kitch a whop  
Frum drivers in a tiff.

\* \* \* \* \*

At Cock-a-Bevis Hill, too, the  
 Wiseacres show a tree,  
 Which if yow clamber up, be sure,  
 A precious way yow see.

I dorn't think I cud clime it now,  
 Aldoe I uster cud;  
 I shudn't warsley loike to try,  
 For guelch cum down I shud.

My head 'ood swim, I 'oodn't do it  
 Nut even for a guinea:  
 A naarbours axed me t'other day,  
 "Naa, naa," says I, "nut quinny."

At Cock-a-Bevis Hill, I was  
 Agoon to tell the folks,  
 Some wares back—when I bargun—  
 In peace there lived John Noakes.

The dialect of Essex retains much of the original Saxon, and in it occur many words familiar to the readers of Chaucer, Piers Plowman, Spenser, &c. .

Such idioms as the following occur: "*At leastwise*," or "*at the leastways*;" "*it is along, or long, of you that*," &c.; "*it fare* as if it were going to rain;" "*being* you are about to cut your hay;" "*the sow will fare* (farrow) soon; she had a *fare* (litter) of ten."

The Essex peasant and yeoman also use the strong instead of the weak form in the past tenses of verbs. Thus he will say that he *rep* (reaped) an acre of wheat, that he *sew* (sowed) tares in the field, and *mew* (mowed) them after; that he *holp* (helped) to load the wagon, that when *lod* (laden) he *dreff* (drove) it off to Chenchford (Chelmsford); that Jem Smith *shew* (showed) him a mighty fine calf, and he *retch* (reached) out his hand to feel if it was fat."

## GEOLOGICAL FORMATION, &c.

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THE physical features of the county may briefly be described as a fertile plain, undulating considerably towards the centre and north-west, richly wooded towards the south-west, sloping away to low, humid marshes on the east and south-east, where it is bordered by the sea and the estuary of the Thames, and relieved by rich pasturage on the banks of its principal rivers, which mainly have their course from N.W. to N.E. and S.E.

The principal hills are High Beach, near Waltham Abbey, 890 feet above the sea level; Laindon Hill, S. of Billericay, 620 feet; and Danbury Hill, between Chelmsford and Maldon about 600 feet. Tiptree Heath, near Maldon, reaches nearly the same elevation. The chalk downs, which form the continuation of the Chiltern hills, slightly trench upon the N.W. part of the county in their extension towards the N.E.

A considerable tract of the N. District from the river Stour to Thaxted and Halstead, is occupied by diluvial beds, consisting of loam interspersed with chalk. The N.E. coast is covered with the sand or gravel of the upper marine formation, which is locally designated "crag." At the headland of the Naze it is 80 feet thick, and rests upon the London clay. S. of the Naze the cliffs consist of fresh-water deposits, which contain shells and mammalian remains. The London clay, however, occupies the main area of the county extending on the S.E. to the banks of the Thames, to the coast, and to the region of the "crag." Inland it is bounded by a line drawn from the Stour near Boxted, to the confluence of the Stort and the sea. The London clay of the cliffs near Harwich contains beds of stratified limestone; the same cliffs abound in the fossils common to the formation. The principal elevations in the county are formed of London clay. A subterranean forest underlies the marshes on the river bank.

Essex consequently has no geological structure of primeval rocks to boast of; its soil in the central, eastern, and southern parts being mainly a continuation of the London clay; and it is only in the north-western parts that the chalk formation, so noticeable a feature in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire, crops out.

The chalk which forms the ridge bounding the valley of the Thames appears about Walden and Dunmow, in the north-west part of Essex; then it is surrounded by an elevation of the London clay which crosses the centre of the county, and the chalk reappears at Grays Thurrock, near Southend.

A very considerable part of the N. of the county is occupied by pleistocene drift, consisting chiefly of chalk and rich heavy loam, which grows lighter towards Cambridgeshire. This tertiary formation abounds in fossils, remains of elephants, hippopotami, mammoths, and other prehistoric races being not infrequent, while shells are found in a singularly perfect condition in the upper marine formation round Harwich, known as "crag" by the natives. In this same crag are bones of elephants, and the tusk of a mammoth was washed up at Harwich. In late years the pleistocene has yielded a rich harvest of fossils. When the Stour Valley Railway was being laid down, the men came across parts of a fossil elephant in a gravel stratum 14 feet below the surface—this was at Lamarsh. Again at West Ham and Ilford many mammoth and elephants' bones have been discovered.

Sir A. Brady (then Mr. Brady) read, in 1859, before the British Association, a paper on these discoveries, in which he states these bones were found mixed with those of the rhinoceros, Irish elk, horse, and ox. In an adjoining field an immense tusk, 14 feet below the surface, was also found. Sir Charles Lyell and other eminent geologists were invited to examine it before it was removed from the place where it had lain in for countless ages. It was nine feet long and of great thickness, but, unfortunately, wanted both ends, only the central portion having survived. A bone of colossal size, belonging to a whale, has since been extracted from the same field.

The greater part of these relics occurred in veins of sandy gravel from five to ten feet in thickness, lying under the brick-earth, into which these remains sometimes protrude, thus leading to their discovery. Beneath

is the great deposit of London clay. Above the brick-earth lies that scarlet gravel for which Ilford is so famous, and above this again is vegetable mould. Grays, too, has given a few elephant bones, and also the bear; while Erith adds the lion and hyæna. Yet there are no traces of the occupation of man, and nothing is added by these remains in support of the much-vexed question of the antiquity of man. A millstone was discovered in 1860, but it gives us little help, being found in a peaty earth close to these bones, and yet more recent, though certainly very ancient, and in the society of remains of existing species. It was probably transported there.

The London clay of the cliffs near Harwich contains beds of stratified limestone; the same cliffs abound in the fossils common to that formation.

Much of the land bordering the Thames at the eastern extremity of the county is flat and unhealthy, and subjects its inhabitants to attacks of ague. Waller thus alludes to this fact in a poem on the death of Lady Rich:

“May those already cursed Essexian plains,  
Where hasty death and pining sickness reigns,  
Prove all a desert, and none make there stay  
But savage beasts, or men as wild as they!”

The above-mentioned discoveries of bones and a submarine forest prove that the level of Essex has been considerably altered since it was trodden by antediluvian creatures, either by the sinking of the soil or the elevation of the water. What is the true theory on which the change can be accounted for must be left to learned geologists to determine.

The pleistocene drifts, or, as they used to be styled, diluvial deposits, are dispersed irregularly over the valley of the Thames, and geologists say that they seem to have been brought down from some elevated position towards the north or east. They appear in Essex at Maldon, Kelvedon, Braintree, Ilford, Grays, &c.

“The erosions of the sea upon the shores of the estuary of the Thames are very rapid upon the Essex coast. The cliffs of Walton-on-the-Naze are rapidly disappearing; the Maplin Sand, near Shoebury Ness, may perhaps be considered as having formed part of the main land in former times.”—*Bohn*.



Essex has many medicinal springs, which are to be found at Tilbury, Hornchurch Lane, the Forest, Upminster, Witham, &c.

#### NATURAL PRODUCTS.

Almost every variety of soil is found in Essex, from the mildest to the most stubborn loam, gravel, rich meadow-land, and stiff, tenacious clay. The greater part of the county is occupied, as stated above, by the stiff London clay. In the northern and central parts there are strong and moist soils, as well as light loams upon marl, and wheat, beans, and oats yield abundant crops. The best soils of Essex lie low, and require to be fenced from the sea by stout embankments. Along the coast extend good loams, varying in tenacity from a strong clay to a light gravel; most of it is adapted to the growth of turnips and beans. Besides the usual cereals, potatoes, rape-seed, caraway, rye-grass, peas, teasels, are cultivated. The average produce of wheat is  $24\frac{1}{2}$ , barley  $33\frac{1}{2}$ , oats  $36\frac{1}{2}$ , beans 27, and peas  $20\frac{1}{2}$  bushels per acre. Vegetables are raised in great quantities, especially turnips and cabbages. Pigs are fattened in large numbers for the London markets, and Essex is proverbially famous for its fatted calves. Along the Thames the marshes supply an extensive grazing-ground for horses. Essex is not a sheep-breeding county, although many fine lambs are reared; but these are generally bought from the breeders in Wilts or Sussex in autumn, and sold fat to the butcher in the succeeding spring.

"It is on its agriculture that the county mainly depends. Its wheat always fetches a good price at Mark Lane; and its hay, straw, vegetables, and milk are poured in largely for the supply of the great metropolis." —*Collier's "Essex."*

Essex is almost entirely an agricultural county. In fact, with the exception of the fishermen of Barking, Leigh, Brightlingsea, and other towns on the Thames and the German Ocean, and a few manufactures in the neighbourhood of Braintree and Coggeshall in the north, its entire population is engaged in farming. Its soil is good for cereal crops, and in no county are the farmers more skilled or more independent; and in regard to the rearing of live stock, especially calves, the name of Essex

has passed into a proverb. Many writers have praised its fertility ; thus Drayton writes in his " Poly-olbion : "

" Essex is our dower, which greatly doth abound  
With every simple good that in the isle is found."

The metropolitan districts are of course excluded from this estimate. In the suburbs of London every variety of mill and factory, print-works, chemical works, and distilleries may be discovered ; but these cannot be considered as indigenous to the county. North Woolwich is widely famous for its extensive ship-building establishments. There are large gunpowder mills at Waltham, depôts at Purfleet, and on other points of the coast. The straw-plat and crape manufactures employ a large number of women and children in the N.W. parts of the shire, at and near Braintree, Halstead, Sudbury, Haverhill, and Saffron Walden. Agricultural implements also are made on a large scale at Heybridge, near Maldon.

Essex is said, though with some exaggeration, to be " as famous for its woven fabrics as for its corn." Thus, in Colchester, very rich velvet is produced ; and at Braintree and Bocking damasks and " brocatelle," the latter so fine that it gained from Prince Albert a gold medal at the Society of Arts. The manufactories which once flourished and still exist in Braintree, Bocking, and Coggeshall, and once existed in Colchester and other places, are due to the Flemings,\* large numbers of whom settled here in the reign of Elizabeth.

" The eastern counties were the first places inhabited by the woollen manufacturers who came over from the continent for the purpose of working up the English wool,

\* The first manufactories for weaving tapestry which acquired reputation in Europe were those of Flanders, and they appear to have been long established in that country, principally at Arras, before they were introduced either into England or France: the precise period when they were first manufactured by the Flemings is uncertain. Guicciardini, in his " History of the Netherlands," published at Antwerp in 1582, ascribes to them the *invention* of tapestries, but without mentioning any particular date. Whether the Flemings did or did not derive their knowledge from the East, to them is certainly due the honour of having restored this curious art, which gives a life to wools and silks, scarcely, if at all, inferior to the paintings of the best masters. The weaving of tapestry was first introduced into England in the time of Henry VIII. by William Sheldon.

which at an early period was exported in a raw state. Essex, however, does not seem to have acquired any peculiar branch of manufacture till the civil and religious persecutions practised in the Low Countries under the Duke of Alva compelled many artizans to quit those parts. Some of these settling at Colchester commenced a manufacture of baize: this flourished considerably, and soon extended its influence to several neighbouring towns and villages, and many of the poor inhabitants were then initiated in the arts of weaving, spinning, and dressing of wool."—*Beauties of England and Wales*.

#### WORTHIES.

Among the worthies of Essex may be enumerated the following:—Gervaise of Tilbury, who flourished as a chronicler in the 12th century, was born at East Tilbury. Barclay, translator of the "Ship of Fools," was vicar of Great Baddow. Sir Richard Blackmore, physician and poet, died at Boxted in 1729. Dr. William Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, came of the Harveys of Hempstead, and is buried in its church, died 1657: he was born at Folkestone, Kent, in 1578. John Locke, the philosopher, was long a resident, and died at Otes Park, High Laver, 1704. Isaac Taylor, the author of the "Natural History of Enthusiasm," was a native of Ongar: he died in 1865. John Ray, the naturalist, was born at Black Notley in 1627. Thomas Tusser, author of "The Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry," was born at Rivenhall in 1523. Lord Chief Justice Sir Nicholas Tindal was a native of Chelmsford. Thomas Audley, Baron Audley of Walden, Lord Chancellor, *temp.* Henry VIII., died in 1544. Richard de Badow (or Baddow), the original founder of Clare Hall, Cambridge, was born at Baddow. Sir William Mildmay, the founder of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, was born at Chelmsford, and died in 1589. John Suckling, the poet and dramatic writer, was born at Witham in 1618, and died in 1641. R. Blakeway, Rector of Little Ilford, author of "An Essay toward the Cure of Religious Melancholy, with some quaint Hymns," 1717. Dr. William Derham, rector of Upminster, author of "Astro-Theology and Physico-Theology," and of the "Life of John Ray;" died 1785. Francis Quarles, author of "Emblems," was born at

Stewards, near Romford. Sydney Smith was born at Woodford. Philip Morant, the historian of Essex, was for some time incumbent of Aldham, in this county. He died 1770.

## EXTENT AND BOUNDARIES.

Essex is a maritime county on the east coast of England, and in point of size stands tenth among the counties of England, being a little smaller than Kent, and a little larger in its area than Suffolk. From east to west its breadth is about 46 miles, and from north to south about 42. Its extreme length, from Bow Bridge and Stratford at the south-west to the point of Harwich at the north-east, measures as nearly as possible 72 miles.

A portion of the land bordering the Thames, lying westward of Barking Creek, and opposite the town of Woolwich, is in Kent, and is known as North Woolwich.

Essex may be described as almost a peninsula. The county extends from Walton in the east to Heydon in the west, about 40 miles, and from West Ham in the south to Haverill in the north, 35 miles; its circumference being about 146 miles. It is said in "*Magna Britannia*" (1738) to contain "20 hundreds, 22 market towns, 415 parishes, 46 parks, one forest, one castle, 1,240,000 acres of ground, and 208,800 souls." Its area is now usually given as about 1,890 square miles, equal to 889,600 square acres. Its parishes are reckoned as about 420 in all.

It is bounded N. by Suffolk and part of Cambridge-shire; W. by Hertfordshire and Middlesex; S. by the river Thames; and E. by the North Sea. It is abundantly supplied with rivers, which, indeed, form its natural and definite boundaries. Thus the river Stour, on the N., separates it from Suffolk; the Thames, on the S., from Kent; and the rivers Stort and Lea, on the W., from Hertfordshire and Middlesex.

The waste lands in Essex are estimated in Cook's *Topography of the County* (about 1825) as containing over 10,000 acres; and he describes both Epping and Hainault Forests as nuisances to the neighbouring farmers, on account of the losses suffered from the deer in their roving, and from tramps in the summer. Owing to its general cultivation it has now far less than the average share of "waste lands."

"Essex has been for ages an enclosed county, so that there was no room here for the great Parliamentary exertions which have been made in so many other counties in the way of enclosing waste tracts."—*Cook's Topography*.

So rapid has been the growth of the metropolis of late years, that London may be said to have invaded Essex, for it has pretty nearly "annexed" to itself the once secluded and ancient villages of East Ham, and West Ham, and Stratford, and the fishing town of Barking. All the south-west angle of Essex, in fact, as far as East Ham, is within the jurisdiction of the Central Criminal Court. The Metropolitan Police area extends to Dagenham, Chigwell, Loughton, and a large part of Epping Forest.

The Flemings, or Flemish Protestants, who fled to this country from the persecutions of the Duke of Alva, must not be confounded with the Huguenots, who were exiled from France after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes more than a century later. Some account of the Flemings will be found in Burn's "Protestant Refugees" (1846), and in Cooper's "History of Foreign Protestants" (Camden Society).

The chief landowners in Essex according to the last Parliamentary return (1873) are, Lord Petre, 19,085 acres: Miss Maynard (Lady Brooke), 8617: Mr. R. Wingfield-Baker, 7579: Col. Bramston, 6318: Lord Braybrooke, 9684: Sir Charles Ducane, 5409: Mr. F. H. Honynwood, 6436: Mr. J. Archer-Houblon, 7127: Lord Rayleigh, 8536: Mr. J. Joliffe-Tufnell, 6582: Countess Waldegrave, 5108: Sir T. S. Western, 7875.

#### DIVISIONS, MARKET-TOWNS, POPULATION, ETC.

The county is included in the province of Canterbury, and the diocese of St. Albans. Till 1847 it formed part of the diocese of London; thenceforward it belonged to Rochester till 1877, when it was attached to the then newly-formed diocese of St. Albans.

For Parliamentary purposes it was formerly divided into the northern and southern divisions; but by the "Representation of the People Act, 1867," it was divided into three, called respectively the North-east, North-west, and South divisions. The "Boundary Act, 1868," however, altered the names of the first two divisions to East

and West. Each of the three divisions sends two members to Parliament. There are three Parliamentary boroughs, namely, Colchester, returning two members, and Maldon and Harwich, with one representative each.

The county is further divided into a royal liberty—Havering-atte-Bower; and 19 hundreds—Barstable, S.; Becontree, S.W.; Chafford, S.; Chelmsford, central; Clavering, N.W.; Dengie, S.E.; Dunmow, W.; Freshwell, N.W.; Harlow, W.; Havering, S.W.; Hinckford, N.; Lexden, N.E.; Ongar, central; Rochford, S.E.; Tendring, N.E.; Thurstable, E.; Uttlesford, W.; Waltham, W.; Winstree, E.; Witham, central.

There are 19 market-towns—Chelmsford, Colchester, Harwich, Maldon, Barking, Billericay, Coggeshall, Dunmow, Epping, Halstead, Grays Thurrock, Rochford, Romford, Saffron Walden, Waltham Abbey, Witham, Harlow, Haverhill, and Manningtree.

Essex stands fourth among the English counties in point of recent increase of population, its rate of progress in 1871–81 having been 23·5; the counties of Surrey, Glamorgan, and Durham alone exceeding it. In 1881 the population of Essex amounted to 575,930 persons, and the number of inhabited houses was 109,100.

#### RIVERS.

The rivers of Essex are the Thames, Stour, Lea, Stort, Colne, Blackwater, Crouch, Roding, and Chelmer. The Thames washes the entire length of its southern shores; the Lea, and its tributary, the Stort, bound it along the greater part of its western border, which they separate from Hertfordshire; and the Stour, on the north, divides it for more than thirty miles from Suffolk. The Chelmer, which rises in its north-west parts, has been made navigable from its mouth at Maldon as far inland as Chelmsford, in its centre; and the Colne is also accessible to coasting craft as high up inland as Colchester. The southern portion of Essex is divided into two nearly equal halves by the Crouch, which flows from west to east, parallel to the Thames and the Chelmer.

The Lea rises in the chalk; but the greater part of its course is through the tertiary formation. The Roding, the Ingerbourn, and the other eastern affluents of the Thames, are entirely furnished by the London clay.

On many of these streams, now crowded with houses and mills, the fleets of the Northmen once sailed, and battles were fought between princes and chiefs.

Other streams of less importance are the Cam, which, rising near Quendon, flows northward past Audley End into Cambridgeshire; the Brain, which has its source near Great Saling, and flows past Braintree into the Blackwater below Witham; the Wid, a tributary of the Chelmer; the Rom, and the Ingerbourn.

Essex has no navigable canals, having been favoured largely by nature with rivers sufficient for the purposes of inland carriage in the days when roads were little more than horse-tracks, and not very easily traversed except in the summer months. In the last century the Chelmer was made navigable by locks from Maldon, and it is still locally termed the "Navigation." About the year 1825 it was designed to cut a canal from London to Romford, and to continue it to Maldon; the project, however, fell through.

#### PRINCIPAL ROUTES.

The traveller who would wish to explore Essex with some degree of minuteness—and its attractions for the archæologist are considerable, if for the artist its scenery should be wanting in interest from its monotony of character—will do well to observe the following main routes:

*a.* The coast route, which may be tolerably surveyed in the summer time by means of a Harwich steamer. If the tourist is fond of sailing, he can of course examine it much more closely and more at his leisure in a small boat.

*b.* From London to Harwich, *by rail*, pausing at the principal stations, and making a circuit round each.

*c.* From London to Saffron Walden, *by rail*.

*d.* From Colchester up the valley of the Colne, to Haverhill—a pedestrian journey.

*e.* From Marks Tey to Braintree and Dunmow—a pedestrian journey.

*f.* From Loughton to Epping and Chipping Ongar—a pedestrian journey.

*g.* From Romford to Purfleet, by road, and thence by rail to Southend. From Southend walk to Rochford and Maldon.

*h.* From Dunmow to Colchester.

*i.* From Brentwood to Rochford and Rayleigh.

RAILWAY JOURNEYS, BY MAIN LINE AND BRANCHES OF THE  
GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

1. From London to Harwich.
2. „ „ to Chesterford, *en route* to Cambridge.
3. „ „ to Southend.
4. „ „ to Epping and Ongar.
5. Bishop's Stortford to Dunmow.
6. Witham to Braintree.
7. Witham to Maldon.
8. Colchester to Brightlingsea.



## TOPOGRAPHICAL VIEW.

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### THE RIVER THAMES.

[*Main Points*: North Woolwich, Barking Creek, Rainham, Purfleet, Grays Thurrock, Tilbury Fort, East Tilbury, Thames Haven, Leigh, and Southend.]

The *Thames* becomes the southern boundary of the county at Blackwall, E. of the Isle of Dogs, where it is joined by the Lea. It then flows in an easterly direction past Woolwich, Erith, Gravesend, and Sheerness, on the Kentish bank, and Purfleet, Grays Thurrock, and Southend on the Essex bank, to the Nore, where, expanding into a broad estuary, it mingles its waters with those of the German Ocean. On the Essex side it receives the Lea, the Roding, and many other tributaries, and near Canvey Island has several winding creeks. It is navigable for vessels of almost any burthen as high as Deptford; for ships of 400 tons to the Pool; to London Bridge for those of 200 tons; and for nearly 180 miles above London, for large barges.

"At a very early period of English history the Thames appears to have been considered as a political boundary of great importance. The division of the country into shires is supposed to have been established on its present basis by King Alfred; and we therein find that the Thames was adopted as the boundary of many of these districts. . . . Long before the time of Alfred the river was adopted as the political limits of the Roman provinces of Britannia Prima on the south, and of Flavia Cæsariensis on the north. In the seventh century also it formed one of the boundaries of the Saxon kingdoms of Mercia and West Seaxe, in the middle of England; and of those of East Seaxe, South Seaxe, and Cantivare on the eastern coast."—*Bohn's "London and Vicinity."*

The banks, or river walls, along the Essex shore are

mostly artificial, the meadows being in places below the level of the river at high water. The period from which they date is remote, and they are generally supposed to have been erected by the Romans.

Mr. Smiles, in his "Lives of Engineers," informs us that the Thames is kept in its bed by 800 miles of river embankment between London Bridge and the Nore. Half of these miles are in Essex.

The general construction of the Thames embankments is what is technically called the "earthen mound." It consists of a heap of earth, the section of which forms a scalene triangle, with the side towards the river inclined at an angle of about  $20^{\circ}$ , and that towards the land at one of about  $45^{\circ}$ . They are fortified chiefly by tiers of stakes, driven into the river face of the wall, and the intervals filled in with lumps of chalk or stone, rammed in to a level with the heads of the stakes or "stalks," as they are more generally called. Since the river steamer has added its "churning" power to the influence of tide and wind, the wall has been faced with a granite pavement. "The whole of the coast of Essex is embanked, both along the sea and the Thames, except at Harwich, Southend, and Purfleet."—*Cook's Topography*.

Floods occur in the valleys of the Thames and the Lea occasionally. They arise entirely from the surface waters, hardly ever from the melting of snow or ice in the highlands near their sources. Indeed, the climate of this part of England, and the feeble elevation of its hills, does not admit of the duration of frost for a sufficient length of time to affect the sources of the river supply. Under these circumstances the floods are found to occur in the rainy seasons, in November and December, in April and in May, without, however, being in any manner peculiarly confined to those months. The flood waters brought down to the rivers are highly charged with earthy matter and the germs of organized life; they, in fact, materially influence the formation of the alluvial deposits of the rivers. The volume of water brought down by the Thames not being sufficient to form a delta, the particles which the stream holds in solution are gradually deposited on the mudbanks, and form shifting shoals, which extend from about Woolwich to the Nore, and even beyond.

The tides in the Thames rise higher than usual if the wind is in the north-west, which brings up the water in

larger volume from the Northern Ocean. Opposite Barking the rise of the tide is about nineteen feet at spring tides, at "neaps" about fifteen.

Naturally the Thames is, and for many centuries it was, a most fishful river; but, curiously enough, the only fish which now seems to thrive on the filthy condition of the lower Thames is the whitebait. The estuary is sometimes visited by the turbot, conger eel, whiting, ling, and other fishes, but their presence is becoming yearly more rare.

The conchology of the banks of the Thames is interesting, showing many specimens of bivalve and univalve shells now extinct.

After passing the mouth of the river Lea, and the entrance to the Victoria Docks, which occupy an area of 200 acres, we reach *North Woolwich*, a rapid-rising suburb of London, connected with the Great Eastern Railway at Stratford by a short branch, and with the old town of Woolwich, in Kent, by a steam-ferry. North Woolwich (which is a portion of Woolwich parish, and part of the county of Kent) was formerly included in the ecclesiastical parish of St. Mark, Victoria Docks, from which it was separated in 1877. The Ch., dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, was built in 1872. The Gas Light and Coke Company, whose works are at Beckton, covering an area of forty acres, are partly in North Woolwich and partly in Barking. Much of the river frontage of North Woolwich is taken up by an extensive pleasure garden, with its contiguous hotel, &c. The gardens of late years have not proved very successful.

Winding round Galleons Reach, we arrive at *Barking Creek*, the mouth of the river Roding, the harbour of the Barking fishing-fleet, and the sewage outfalls of the Metropolitan Board of Works, which, together with that at Crossness Point on the opposite shore, renders the Thames at times little better than an open sewer.

Next, gliding past the grassy expanse of Barking Level we come in sight of *Dagenham Breach*, a gap in the river-bank produced by the violence of wind and tide in the winter of the year 1707. Through the opening so produced the rush of waters swept over upwards of 1,000 acres of rich land, and carried nearly 120 acres into the Thames. The breach was repaired under the superintendence of Captain Perry, in 1718, at an expense of more than

£40,000, and the embankment shuts in a lake or pool of forty-four acres, which has been used as a fish-preserve. The stopping of this Breach gave birth to a variety of pamphlets, which are now both scarce and curious. Dagenham Ch., dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, is built of brick and stone, with an embattled tower surmounted by a slated spire. The nave was rebuilt in 1800, the rest of the fabric dates from the 13th century.

A canal has been cut from Romford to the Thames at this point.

Passing from Erith Reach into Long Reach, we descry the chalk cliff of *Purfleet*, overhanging the river, and adorned with fresh and glossy foliage. Here is a station on the London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway. The Government Powder Magazines, built here in 1781, provide storage for 60,000 barrels. The building is very solidly constructed, the walls being no less than five feet thick. Much lime is burnt in this vicinity, for the use of the London and Essex builders; and the little *flete*, or *creek*, from which the village takes its name, is generally filled with barges loading with lime and chalk. Here is a place of considerable resort in summer, called Botany Bay Gardens, which can be visited by obtaining a ticket from the hotel. The *Cornwall* juvenile reformatory ship is moored off the shore at Purfleet.

The river now bends to the S.E., and then turns off sharply to the N.E., curving into the Essex shore, and again diverging to the S., its sinuous course forming St. Clement's Reach and North Reach. On this curve, or bend, are seated the three villages of West Thurrock, Grays Thurrock, and Little Thurrock.

*West Thurrock* is a long, straggling village, with an old Early Eng. Ch., dedicated to St. Clement, whose massive tower, standing near the river-bank, forms a fine and conspicuous landmark. The old ferry here was the regular route for pilgrims from the eastern counties to the shrine of St. Thomas à Becket at Canterbury.

*Grays Thurrock* has a station on the Tilbury and Southend Railway. It is situated in the centre of the concave sweep of the river; has a small creek, or harbour, capable of receiving vessels of 800 tons burthen; and a wooden pier, 400 feet long, erected in 1841. Some good fossils are found in the lime quarries in this neighbourhood. A bed of brick-earth, lying above the chalk, has embedded

in it the remains of elephants. The bones of deer, the bear, and other animals have also been found, as well as the remains of forest trees. West of the town, on a slight eminence, stands Belmont Castle, a modern mansion of considerable architectural pretensions. The Ch., Norman in style, was rebuilt in 1846. Thurrock belonged to the noble family of Gray for three centuries, and hence is called Grays Thurrock, or simply Grays.

*South Ockendon*, 4½ m. N. from Grays, is a small village which, with its manor, belonged at the time of the Domesday survey to Geoffry de Magnaville. The Ch., dedicated to St. Nicholas, has a round tower, once crowned by a spire. The Ch. was restored in 1865. It contains a monument to R. Saltonshall, d. 1601.

*North Ockendon*, a little further N., possesses an ancient Ch., in which are monuments to the Poyntz and Littleton families.

*Little Thurrock* is planted on the high ground above the marshes, at some slight distance from the river-bank. The Ch. is Early Eng., and consists of a nave and chancel only. It was restored in 1878. The chalk hills in these parishes are perforated with extensive caverns, called *Cunobelin's Gold Mines*, and supposed to have been used as places of shelter by the Saxons in the days of the Danish invasions; they are likewise called Dane-holes. It is thought that the Danes used to lurk in them, and hide their plunder; others consider that they were inhabited in the winter by the natives, who here screened themselves from their invaders.

The fenny levels we are now passing remind the spectator of Dutch landscapes: their narrow dykes, their stunted pollards, their drooping willows, and sleepy-eyed cattle seem to have been bodily transported from the canvas of Cuyp or Hobbima.

We now arrive opposite the populous river-port and watering-place of Gravesend. On the Essex bank, stands the Tilbury station of the Southend Railway, and adjacent are the frowning batteries, lately enlarged and strengthened, of *Tilbury Fort*. The whole of the surrounding level can easily be laid under water. The present defensive works were first constructed in 1667, from the designs of Sir Bernard de Gomme, the Engineer-General; but a fort had been built here after the alarm of the Spanish Armada, according to the designs of Frederick Gerre-

belli, an Italian, who conducted the defence of Antwerp against the Spaniards. Within the last thirty years the forts, both here and at East Tilbury, have been rendered of formidable strength, and no hostile squadron could possibly endure their fire.

On the green hills which rise so pleasantly above the marshes stand the village and Ch. of *West Tilbury*. Here was encamped Queen Elizabeth's army in 1588, when the "Invincible Armada" menaced the shores of England. The reviewing of her troops by Queen Elizabeth, and her speech addressed to them before the arrival of the Spanish Armada off these coasts, serves to connect Essex with the history of the kingdom. In this neighbourhood the celebrated writer, Daniel Defoe established a manufactory of pantiles, but the speculation proved unsuccessful. A Ch. is said to have been built here by St. Chad, Bishop of the East Saxons. The present building, dedicated to St. James, is Early English.

In consequence of the insufficiency of dock accommodation in the port of London, and of the want of depth in the river above Gravesend, for vessels of the largest size, it has been proposed to form an extensive system of deep-water docks at Tilbury. The river entrance will be 200 feet wide, and the dock will be arranged to give working berths for thirty large steamers, averaging 400 feet in length each. Graving docks and coaling and fitting-out berths will be provided in the main dock. The largest of the dry docks will be 825 feet in length. The estimate for the whole work, including the purchase of the land, amounts to about £1,100,000.

The great extension of docks in this neighbourhood is rapidly converting Gravesend and the district on both sides of the river into the port of London—a fact which doubtless will expedite the building of a bridge lower down the Thames than is the case at present.

Following the course of the river we glide into Hope Reach at *East Tilbury*, between which and Higham, in Kent, exists an ancient ferry. The Ch. of St. Margaret is very old. Its tower, which stood at the S.W. angle, was beaten down by the Dutch when they sailed up the river in insolent triumph in 1667.

Sweeping round the Hope and passing into the estuary of the Thames, where it begins to broaden into the North Sea, we arrive at *Thames Haven*, situated at the mouth

of a deep and considerable creek, which strikes inland for several miles. An attempt has been made to establish here a new shipping port, and a branch of the Tilbury and Southend Railway (from near Stanford-le-Hope) runs to the riverside. There is here a dock for the unloading of foreign cattle; but beyond that Thames Haven is frequented only by fishing-smacks and Margate steamers.

Thames Haven is situated in the parish of *Fobbing*, the Ch. of which place, dedicated to St. Michael, stands on rising round and forms a conspicuous landmark. In January, 1881, much damage was done to the sea-wall here during a violent storm. Between Thames Haven and Mucking Creek is a lighthouse with a revolving light.

*Shell Haven* is the depôt of the lobster fishery.

*Canvey Island*, supposed to be the *Convinnos* of Ptolemy, is separated from the mainland of Essex by Hadleigh Bay and South Benfleet and East Haven Creeks. It is of an irregular oval figure from  $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. in breadth, and about 6m. in length. There is a passage to South Benfleet by a causeway across the creek, fordable at low water. The 8,600 acres of rich grazing land which this island contains are divided among the parishes of N. and S. Benfleet, Bowers Gifford, Landon, Pitsea, Vange, Prittlewell, and Southchurch. The Ch. of St. Katharine, built in 1875 in place of a former structure, consists of chancel and nave, and two transepts.

Rounding Canvey Point we see on rising ground to our left the crumbling walls of Hadleigh Castle. We next touch at *Leigh*, a small and ancient port, town, and fishing station, which clusters upon the slope of a wooded hill, and commands extensive prospects of the busy Thames. Its trade consists mainly in the shrimp, winkle, and oyster fishery. The oyster beds are planted between Canvey Island and a long, narrow, isolated strip of land, known as Leigh Marsh. Leigh Ch., a goodly building with an ivy-shrouded tower, is a fine specimen of the Perp. architecture. It stands near the crest of the hill, and with its background of hill and grove, offers a charming "bit" for the sketcher's notebook. In the churchyard is a table monument to Admiral Sir Richard Haddock, Commissioner of the Navy, who died 1714.

About  $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. beyond Leigh we observe the boundary-stone which marks the extreme limit of the Conservancy of the Thames.

Next we arrive at *Southend*, of late years grown into repute as an agreeable and quiet watering-place, enjoying great facilities for sea-bathing. The houses are mostly good—especially the new town erected by Sir Morton Peto—and the Terrace commands a delightful and extensive view of the sea, the Nore, the Medway, Sheerness, and the ever-varying shipping of all nations so continually crowding the mouth of the Thames. The wooden *pier*, erected in 1830–2, projects into the river upwards of 1m., and affords a sufficiently agreeable promenade. The sands are firm and level, and the inland views well wooded and picturesque. Southend, originally a hamlet in the parish of Prittlewell, first sprang into notice as a watering-place in consequence of a visit of the late Queen Caroline and Princess Charlotte in 1804. There is a good sea-wall and promenade for visitors, considerably over a mile in length. The Ch. of St. John the Baptist was commenced in 1842, and subsequently enlarged, the chancel being built in 1872–8. The Congregational Church, Cliff Town, erected in 1866, is a handsome Gothic building. The Catholic Church of Our Lady and St. Helen the Empress was built in 1868; it has an orphanage adjoining. The Baptists, Congregationalists, Wesleyans, and others have chapels here. A Public Hall was erected in 1872 at a cost of £8,000; it contains a large room fitted with a stage, suitable for concerts, &c.

*Prittlewell*, a mile to the north, is a pleasant and even a picturesque village, seated on a gentle acclivity. *Prittlewell Priory*, the seat of J. Farley Leith, Esq., Q.C., is a well-looking mansion, built on the site of a small Chiniac house, which Robert de Essex founded in the reign of Henry II. The manor of *Temple Sutton* belonged to the Knights Templars of Cressing. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, is a handsome Perp. building, with a lofty stone tower that furnishes an admirable sea-mark. It is one of the largest and, architecturally, one of the most interesting churches in the county. The fabric was restored in 1872. A large chapel at the S.E. corner was formerly used by the Parochial Guild or Confraternity of Jesus.

*Milton*, a hamlet in Prittlewell, close to Southend, is said to have been a distinct parish till swallowed up by the sea. It is now included in Southend.

Hence we proceed to *Shoeburyness*, the S.E. extremity



of Essex. Here the Government has established a station for artillery practice; there is also a battery of fifteen guns, and barracks for 400 men. Looking across to the Nore lightship, we now take our farewell of the Thames, which here mingles with the German Ocean.

#### INLAND RIVERS.

*a.* The Stour—*b.* The Lea—*c.* The Stort—*d.* The Colne—*e.* The Blackwater—*f.* The Crouch—*g.* The Roding—*h.* The Chelmer.

##### (*a.*) *The Stour.*

[*Main Points:* Steeple Bumpstead (Whixhoe, in Suffolk), Ovington, Pentlow, Lyston (Sudbury in Suffolk), Ballingdon, Lamarsh, Bures, Nayland, Langham, Dedham, Manningtree, Mistley Thorne, Bradfield, Wrabness, Harwich.]

The *Stour* has its sources in Essex and Suffolk, near Haverhill. A few miles below that village it becomes the boundary of the two counties, and so continues during its whole course, passing by Clare, Sudbury, Nayland, Manningtree, and Mistley, where it broadens into a considerable estuary, and at Harwich, joining the Orwell, falls into the sea. The *Stour*, in fact, may be said to have three courses: one near Haverhill, in Suffolk; one to the N. of Helion Bumpstead; and a third between the latter village and Steeple Bumpstead. The three streams unite near Whixhoe.

*Helion Bumpstead* is a large and pleasant village in the heart of rich meadow lands, deriving its name from a follower of the Conqueror, Tihel or Ti Hellus Brito, who held it at the Domesday survey. Its Ch., dedicated to St. Andrew, has an Early Eng. chancel.

*Steeple Bumpstead* stands on the banks of the nascent *Stour*, a little to the N. of the richly-wooded demesne of *Bower Hall* (Bendyshe Walton, Esq.). *Moynes Park*, long the seat of the family of Gent, but now of Col. Cecil Ives, is also well wooded. The mansion is a fine specimen of the Elizabethan style. Its stacks of chimneys are conspicuous objects. The Ch. of St. Mary, lately restored, has a handsome Perp. tower, and several handsome monuments, particularly one to Sir Henry Bendyshe. "The steeple, or tower, from which this place derives its name, formerly stood near the road leading from Haverhill to Baythorn

Bridge, where entrenchments are to be seen."—*Kelly's "Directory of Essex."*

With an easterly course the Stour flows between Essex and Suffolk, through quiet rural villages. Confining our attention to the Essex side, we note as we follow the river-line the pretty hamlets of *Birdbrook*, *Ashen*, and *Ovington*, their names indicative of their pastoral character. The country around *Birdbrook* is specially picturesque, from its frequent alternations of hill and dale. Mr. Thomas Walford, F.S.A., of Birdbrook Hall, was well known as a man of high scientific and literary attainments, and as the author of "The Tourist," &c. *Baythorne Park* boasts some noble old trees. Its mansion, dating from 1668, has been "improved" by successive owners.

*Birdbrook Ch.*, dedicated to St. Augustine, has some Early Eng. characteristics, with a wooden spire and a curious font. In the tower an epitaph records that "Martha Blewitt, of Baythorne End, in this parish, was buried May 7th, 1681: was the wife of nine husbands, but the ninth survived her. Robert Hogan, of this parish, was the husband of seven wives; he married the seventh wife January 1st, 1739."—*Kelly*. Near the Ch. are some barrows. Roman remains are visible at Hunnock's Lane, and at Watsoe is a camp.

*Ashen Ch.* is an ancient edifice, the chancel of which has been rebuilt. Some of the windows are filled with stained glass.

*Ovington* stands on high ground, with an ancient Ch. of the same period as that of Birdbrook. The chancel has been restored, and a stained east window inserted.

*Pentlow* is situated on the Stour, opposite the Suffolk village of Cavendish, with a semi-Norman semi-Early Eng. Ch., having an apsidal chancel and round tower. In 1859 an octagon spire, of Tudor architecture, was erected by a former rector, the Rev. Edward Bull, to the memory of his father. The tower is worth ascending for the sake of the view obtained from its summit. N. of the chancel is the Kemp chantry or chapel, containing several effigies. Some good stained glass enriches the windows.

At *Liston*, where there is a small Early Eng. Ch. of no great extent, the Stour turns off sharply to the S., and flows through the broad, rich meadows of *Borley*, and its quiet, blossoming, happy valley. In the Ch. are some noticeable memorials of the Waldegraves, especially an imposing

marble monument to Sir Edward Waldegrave and his lady, who died in the 16th century.

*Ballingdon*, though in Essex, is included in the borough of Sudbury, from which it is separated only by the Stour. There remain no traces of its ancient Ch.

At *Lamarsh*, where the ground rises boldly from the low banks of the river, several fossil bones of the mammoth have been discovered. The Ch., dedicated to the Holy Innocents, has a massive round tower and octagonal spire. The chancel is Early Eng. The Sudbury branch of the Great Eastern Railway follows the Stour valley from Sudbury to *Mount Bures*, so named from its position on the uplands, or from the moat-encompassed mound, 80ft. high, which rises near this church. It probably marks the position of a British camp. The Ch., dedicated to St. John, is small and old. Transepts were added in 1875, when the tower and spire were rebuilt.

Our river now turns again to the eastward, and glides through a pastoral district to Nayland (in Suffolk). Thence it flows, with an inclination to the N.E., to Higham, where it curves to the south.

*Wormingford*, a parish on the navigable Stour, is 3m. E. from Bures station on the Sudbury Railway. The Ch. of St. Andrew, restored in 1869-70, consists of chancel, nave, north aisle, and square tower at the west end; in the chancel is a window of stained glass.

In the Ch. of *Boxted*, the adjoining parish, is a mural monument with a long inscription to Sir Richard Blackmore, M.D., who died 1729. It is, unfortunately, placed so high that the inscription cannot be read.

*Langham* straggles along the Colchester road, and the banks of the Stour, with a Ch. at the N. end of the village, raising its tower above the trees; it is dedicated to St. Mary, and is Early English. A manorial hall stands on the high ground beyond. The scenery along the course of the river is primitive and uniform.

*Dedham* was formerly a market-town, and has still an Easter fair. Down to the middle of the 18th century it was one of the seats of the woollen manufacture, but it has now subsided into a condition of bucolic repose. The Ch., dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is a large and handsome Perp. building, with a lofty and massive tower 131ft. high. On the E. side of the battlements is a statue of Margaret, Countess of Richmond; and from this circum-

stance, and the existence of armorial bearings of York and Lancaster in the interior, we may date its erection from the accession of Henry VII. There are two large and well-endowed Grammar Schools: one, the Free Grammar School, was founded in 1571, by William Littlebury; and the other, called the English School, was founded in 1610. There is also a National School.

*Dedham Park* (H. J. Back, Esq.) is a modern mansion, standing in extensive grounds; and *Stour House* (W. H. Dunnett, Esq.) was built in 1868 on rising ground overlooking the valley of Dedham.

At the point of expansion of the Stour into a tidal estuary, 8m. beyond Dedham, stands the busy market-town of *Manningtree* (pop. 870, 60m. N.E. from London, and 11m. from Harwich), forming with Mistley a port or creek under Harwich, and carrying on an extensive trade in corn, coal, timber, fish, &c. It is a market-town, though not in former times a distinct parish. It stands at the head of the Stour estuary, and has a station on the Great Eastern Railway. In the time of Queen Anne the Stour was made artificially navigable from hence up to Sudbury. The town possesses some large malting establishments, and its commodious quay is annually frequented by 500 or 600 vessels of an average burthen of 100 tons. At Mistley Quay there are 14ft. of water. Its Ch., dedicated to St. Michael, was rebuilt in 1616, and exhibits the worst style of the period. It contains a monument to Thomas Ormond, one of the Marian victims, burnt here in 1555. The interior was restored in 1874. The Corn Exchange, in the High Street, was built in 1865, at a cost of about £1,600. The Reading-room was erected in 1849.

Round *Mistley* some well-wooded landscapes may be discovered, brightened by glimpses of the Stour. The Ch., in the Doric style, with two pretentious circular domes, built in 1777, which a topographical writer not unfairly describes as "an unique building," has been removed, and a new Ch., dedicated to St. Mary, was consecrated in 1871. It is in the Early Decorated style, and contains several memorial windows of stained glass. *Mistley Hall*, on the banks of the Stour, in the last century was the seat of Mr. Richard Rigby, M.P. It belonged till lately to Lord Rivers, and was at one time occupied by Sir C. M. Sutton afterwards Lord Canterbury.

Hence the Great Eastern Railway follows closely the bank of the Stour to Harwich. It has a station at *Bradfield*, a pleasantly situated village, on a green acclivity that rises boldly from the river marshes. The Ch., dedicated to St. Lawrence, is a cruciform building, partly Perp., restored in 1841, and containing a monument by Chantrey to the Agassiz family. There is also a monument to Sir Harbottle Grimston, Master of the Rolls, *temp.* Charles II., who was born here, and d. 1688.

At *Wrabness* stands an ancient E. Eng. Ch., dedicated to All Saints, which formerly boasted a tower of stone, but has now only a wooden turret.

We now reach *Dovercourt*, and soon afterwards pass into the seaport town of *Harwich*, situated at the confluence of the Stour and Orwell with the North Sea. Harwich will be described hereafter.

#### THE LEA.

[*Main Points* : Roydon (Broxbourne, in Herts), Waltham, Chingford, Walthamstow, Leyton, Stratford, West Ham, Bow Creek.]

The *Lea*, divided in its course into many channels, receives several tributaries, passes Broxbourne, Waltham Abbey, Chingford, Leyton, and West Ham; and separating Essex from the Isle of Dogs, falls into the Thames below Stratford-le-Bow. The river rises between Dunstable and Luton, in Bedfordshire, and flowing through Hertfordshire, commences to form the boundary-line of Western Essex, at a point just below Roydon, where it receives the Stort. From thence to its junction with the Thames it proceeds in a southerly direction, and is rendered navigable by many artificial "cuts." It is, however, navigable for barges up to Hertford. The scenery which it traverses is never romantic and seldom picturesque; but its water-meadows afford rich pasturage, and its banks everywhere afford evidence of high cultivation. From Roydon to London it passes through level ground, seldom undulating into gentle hills or leafy dales; but, nevertheless, around Broxbourne (Herts) and Waltham the artist will meet with many pleasant rural landscapes, combining the charms of wood and water, and offering some agreeable opportunities for the exercise of his pencil. In its entire course the *Lea* is a very "fishful" river, and its

fame is known to every reader of Izaak Walton's "Angler."

With these general remarks we shall suppose the traveler to descend the Lea as far as *Waltham* (*weald, ham*, the wooded village), and its groves, meads, and pleasant islets. Many-islanded *Waltham Abbey*, or *Waltham Holy Cross*, is a small and venerable market-town, seated in a vale, on the numerous streams into which the Lea divides at this part of its course. The oases formed by this network of watercourses are principally occupied with the buildings of the *Royal Gunpowder Mills and Magazines*, which extend four miles towards Chingford, through a pleasant neighbourhood.

But the great interest of *Waltham* centres in its famous Abbey, the foundation of Harold, the "last of the Saxon kings," and traditionally reputed the place of his sepulture. By Harold it was endowed as a college for a dean and seven secular canons of the Augustinian order, and a distinct manor was allotted to the support of each pious monk. The Ch. was at the same time enriched with numerous relics, especially with a miraculous Holy Cross, discovered at Montacute, in Somerset, and brought hither in a wonderful manner, which attracted constant streams of devout and munificent pilgrims. Thanks to kings Henry I., Richard Cœur de Lion, and Henry III., the Abbey waxed rich and prosperous. About 1242 it was greatly enlarged, adorned, and re-dedicated. Here, it is said, Henry VIII. first met with Cranmer, who was residing at *Waltham* as tutor to some pupils, and here he consulted him on the propriety of breaking with the See of Rome. It was here that, in reply to some advice of Cromwell on the subject, the king said, "You have got the sow by the ear."

In 1539 the Abbey fell beneath the sacrilegious blows of Henry VIII. and his minister Cromwell, and its estates were granted to the king's confidant, Sir Anthony Denny, from whose descendants they in due time passed to the Wakes. Of the monastic buildings, once so magnificent, a gateway, a bridge, and some mossy and hoary walls are all that have survived the greed of successive proprietors; but a portion of the original Abbey Chapel is now the parish Ch., and exhibits all the best features of Norman architecture. Its length is about 90ft., its breadth 48ft. The nave is divided from the aisles by five semicircular

arches, with the Norman zigzag ornament, and one of E. Eng. construction. At the W. end stands a heavy square tower, dating from 1558. It is built with stone (from the older buildings), embattled, and rises to the height of 86ft. The Lady Chapel was long used as a schoolroom. There are no traces of Harold's tomb, with its pathetic legend—" *Harold Infelix*"—and it is doubtful whether the Saxon hero was really interred here. But it stood some thirty or forty yards beyond the eastern extremity of the present Ch.

Very much has been done here in late years in the way of restoration, "on the old lines." "The Ch. is now no longer the dreary and dilapidated building that it was less than a quarter of a century ago; although the edifice has not been thoroughly 'restored,' but merely saved from that utter decay and ruin by which it was at one time threatened. The Lady Chapel, on the S. side of the chancel, has been repaired at a cost of £1000, defrayed by Sir T. F. Buxton, Bart., and has been thrown into the body of the Ch.; the hideous deal pens, called pews, have been replaced by oaken benches all looking eastward; and all the galleries have been removed. The perfectly flat and horizontal ceiling—the dark colours of which for years only served to add a sense of weight and oppression where all should be light and graceful—has been replaced by one of wood, painted in colours, and more suited to the architecture. Instead of the large square holes in the walls, filled with glass, that had long served as lights, new windows, set in a framework of the Norman style, have been inserted; and almost all the windows have been filled with painted glass as memorials of departed friends."—*Holidays in Home Counties*.

Among the incumbents of Waltham Holy Cross have been Dr. Thomas Fuller, author of the "Holy War," "Worthies," "Church History of England," &c.; and Dr. Joseph Hall, afterwards Bishop of Exeter and Norwich, author of "Christian Meditations," "Episcopacy by Divine Right Asserted," "Contemplations," and of numerous other theological and poetical works.

This place gave birth to Roger de Waltham, Canon of St. Paul's, the learned author of "Compendium Morale," and "Imagines Oratorum;" and also to John de Waltham, Bishop of Salisbury, Lord Privy Seal and Chancellor of England, *temp.* Richard II.

Near the Abbey Mill, which is still occupied for grinding corn, is a wide space of ground, surrounded by small dwellings, called the Bramblings, but formerly Rome-land (as at St. Alban's and at Norwich), which is conjectured to have been so called from its rents being in former times appropriated to the use of the Holy See. On this spot Henry VIII. is reported to have had a small pleasure-house, which he frequently occupied on his visits to Waltham. The statute fair is still held here.

Pursuing along the banks of the Lea, we wander among the scattered groups of trees and occasional bits of woodland that indicate the ancient character of Epping Forest rather than its present area. We pass the quiet little hamlet of *Sewardstone* and enter a well-wooded country which continues as far as *Chingford*. Here the landscape is relieved by some tolerable hills, a breadth of open common, and an occasional leafy hollow. The village perpetuates in its name the memory of the King's Ford (now rendered useless by a substantial bridge), which connected Chingford with Edmonton, in Middlesex. The old Ch. is a low, small, ivy-shrouded building of flint and stone with a large admixture of red brick; it is no longer used for service. It contains a good brass or two and kneeling effigies. The new Ch. stands on the green; a Gothic building of brick, with tower and spire, erected in 1844.

*Chingford* is called in old records "Chingleford." One manor of this parish was given at an early date to St. Paul's. The head manor was given by Edward III. to Ralph de Monthermer, Earl of Gloucester, and afterwards came to the Lords Badlesmere and Roos, and so to the Earls of Rutland, after whom this manor was called Earls' Chingford; the other manor is called Chingford St. Paul's.

There is nothing to detain us now between Chingford and Lea Bridge, unless we turn aside to visit Walthamstow.

*Walthamstow* lies on the borders of Epping Forest in a valley watered by the Lea; and being surrounded by rich and picturesque scenery, has of late years grown into repute as a popular metropolitan *rus-in-urbe*, whither the London citizen may retire after his daily toil in the mighty Babylon to enjoy the delights of a dignified ease. It is accordingly encircled with handsome villas and blooming gardens; has a large ancient Ch., modern Chapels-of-ease, a free school, a proprietary grammar-school, and all the other "decencies" of a flourishing suburban settlement. On



the river Lea are situated some extensive copper-mills. Walthamstow was anciently the possession of Earl Harold, and then of the Tonies, who gave the tithes to the Prior and Canons of Trinity or Christ Church, in Aldgate. At the Dissolution these were seized by the king and the advowson sold.

The parish Ch. dates from the 12th century. It was repaired in 1585 by Sir George Monoux, who added a new aisle, called the Monoux aisle; he also founded here a free school and almshouses. The whole Ch. was "beautified" in 1817. The *Town Hall*, in Orford Road, was built in 1876. *Salisbury Hall* was formerly a manor belonging to and called after Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, beheaded by Henry VIII. Sir George Monoux "made a 'causey,' or causeway, of timber over the marshes from this town to Lock Bridge on the way to London."—*Magna Britannia*.

Passing Lea Bridge, in a neighbourhood much resorted to by brethren of the "gentle craft," we reach

*Bow Bridge*. The original structure, a narrow bridge of stone, said to have been built by Queen Matilda, was removed about 1839. That structure is memorable as the first bridge built in England with an arch of stone, and it is supposed to be the place intended by the old nursery song:

"London Bridge is broken down;  
Dance over my Lady Lea."

Adjoining Bow Bridge, the votive chapel of St. Leonard's Bromley (in Middlesex) still attests the narrow escape of the Empress Matilda from being drowned in the Lea.

*West Ham*, a populous suburb of London, is next reached. The Ch., dedicated to All Saints, is a spacious edifice of brick and stone, with a massive square tower. An altar tomb in the north chancel is dated 1485. Beneath the tall chancel arch, over the lion and the unicorn, hung fifty years ago the faded colours of the West Ham volunteers, and in the chancel were two huge bones, said and believed to be those of the mammoth.

The North London Outfall Sewer passes through the whole length of this parish, and has a pumping station at Abbey Mills. West Ham Park, formerly called "Upton Park," and formerly belonging to the Gurney family, is now open to the public as a recreation ground. It is about

80 acres in extent, and was opened by the Lord Mayor in 1874. The mansion, called the "Cedars," but formerly known as "Upton Lane House," was long the residence of the celebrated Mrs. Elizabeth Fry, sister of Mr. Samuel Gurney.

The West Ham, Stratford, and South Essex Dispensary, in West Ham Lane, was built in 1878.

*Forest Gate*, in this parish, is an ecclesiastical district formed in 1852. There are two or three churches and chapels and several schools. The West Ham Cemetery and the Jews' Cemetery are in this district.

The neighbourhood presents no attractions to the artist or the inquisitive seeker after the picturesque, but is rich in material for thought and study if the traveller love the exploration of those vast factories and mills, those hives of busy industry and thriving labour, which so largely contribute to our national greatness. Speaking of the parish generally, it may be defined as a great industrial centre, for within its boundaries it includes chemical works and distilleries, silk printing mills, a rocket manufactory, and iron and wooden shipbuilding yards. Within the last fifty years the population of West Ham has grown from 10,000 to 150,000, mainly owing to the Railway and Gas Works, and the Victoria and Albert Docks.

*Plaistow*, which adjoins West Ham on the N., is so called from the heiress of the Mountfichets, who married Hugh de Plaiz, her portion being the manor which came in course of time to bear this name.

The further course of the Lea needs no description. A silent, sluggish, muddy, and tolerably deep stream, it glides through the dense smoke and vapour of Eastern London, and the din of labour, to join the Thames at Bow Creek.

### (c) *The Stort.*

[*Main Points*: Clavering, Manewden (Bishop's Stortford, Herts), Great Hallingbury, Little Hallingbury, Harlow, Little Parndon, Roydon (where it joins the Lea).]

The *Stort* enters the county near Bishop's Stortford, from which point it is navigable; divides Essex from Hertfordshire, and joins the Lea near Roydon. The river has a course of 26m.

It rises from a small spring a little to the south of the pleasant village of *Clavering*.

Of the Castle of Claveringbury the area may still be traced close by the churchyard, surrounded by a moat; and the archæologist cannot fail to be interested in the details of the stately Perp. Ch., with its massive embattled tower and spacious nave. The edifice, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Clement, contains some monuments of the Barlec family; the interior of the church has been restored and re-seated with open benches.

The scenery around *Manewden* is of a similar character, and the numerous "greens" in this quiet neighbourhood are sufficiently indicative of its general features. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary, is probably of the same age as that at Clavering, and boasts of tower and spire, of spacious chancel, nave, aisles, and transept. It was formerly cruciform, and underwent a thorough restoration in 1865. The nave is separated from the chancel by a handsome screen. This Ch. was bestowed by Richard de Camville upon the monks of St. Melan, in Bretagne, who had "a cell" at Hatfield Broad Oak.

The Stort now crosses an angle of Hertfordshire, passes Bishop's Stortford, and thence proceeds south-west to form the boundary between Hertfordshire and Essex. Below Roydon it empties itself into the Lea.

Following up the valley of this pretty river we shall successively arrive at *Great Hallingbury*, *Little Hallingbury*, *Harlow*, *Little Parndon*, and *Roydon*.

At *Great Hallingbury* we see the quadrangular and turreted mansion of Hallingbury Place (J. Archer Houlton, Esq.), formerly a seat of the Lords Morley and Monteagle. The Morleys sold it to Sir Edward Turner, Speaker to the House of Commons. It stands on a bold ascent in a finely-wooded park. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary, was rebuilt, with the exception of the tower, in 1874.

"*Little Hallingbury* is called in Domesday Book Hallingbury Bruncker, or Bouchier, the whole of the property in Great and Little Hallingbury having formerly belonged to the Bouchiers, Earls of Essex."—*Kelly*. The Ch. of St. Mary the Virgin consists of chancel, nave, and square tower. It was at this place that Thomas Sutton first designed to erect the hospital and school which he afterwards founded at the Charterhouse in London.

At *Wallbury*, 2m. W., was a Roman camp, terminating on an overhanging cliff above the river Stort, and enclosing an area of thirty-six acres. The Ch., *temp.* Edward

III., has an embattled tower, and contains several memorials of the Morley and Monteagle families.

*Harlow*, a small but ancient market-town, 23m. from London, consists in the main of one long street, in the line of the high-road to Bishop's Stortford. It was formerly a seat of the woollen manufacture. The parish Ch., a cruciform building, was rebuilt in a most hideous shape in 1709, and was almost entirely rebuilt in 1878-80.

Harlow, amicably *Herlava*, was given by King Edward the Confessor to the Abbey of Bury St. Edmund's. There was here a market on Saturdays, but it has fallen into disuse; Harlow Bush Fair, however, is still held annually in September, and is famous for horses and cattle; it is held at Potter Street. From about 1820-40 Harlow was the head-quarters of the Essex Archery, and its "Archery Balls" became famous through the county.

In the neighbourhood of Harlow are the following seats: Mark's Hall (the Misses Arkwright); Durrington House (C. W. Glyn, Esq.); Hill Hall (Sir W. Bowyer-Smijth); Down Hall (Sir H. J. Selwin-Ibbetson); and Moor Hall (Mrs. Perry-Watlington).

A large, ancient, Early English Chapel, converted into a barn, at *Harlowbury*, formerly belonged to the Abbey of Bury St. Edmund's; it has a Norman doorway in good preservation. The original character of *Potter Street*, or *Village*, a large hamlet of Harlow parish, is indicated by its name.

*Latton*, 1m. S.W. from Harlow, is a small village, the manor of which was long owned by the Valois family. There was a small Priory, of which some Dec. remains are standing, now used as a barn. The Ch. of St. John the Baptist is small, and the Register dates from 1560.

*High Laver*, 5m. S.E., has a Ch. with a square embattled tower, partly of red brick, with a wooden spire; it was restored in 1865. John Locke, the patriot and philosopher, died at Otes and is buried here; his tomb was restored in 1865. The manor house of the Mashams, and called Oats, or Otes, has been pulled down.

*Little Parndon*, a small village in a small parish, has a small E. Eng. Ch. It was rebuilt in 1868. Parndon Hall (L. W. Arkwright, Esq.) is a modern mansion of red brick with Portland stone dressings. To the S.W., in the heart of hill, dale, rivulet, and shady trees, stands *Great Parndon*, where a monastery of Premonstratensian canons

was founded, *circa* 1150, by Roger and Robert de Parndon. In 1180 the monks removed to Bileigh Abbey, near Maldon, but retained the estate. The Ch. is of mixed architecture, with a grey old tower.

*Roydon* appears to have once enjoyed both a market and a fair, but both are forgotten. *Nether Hall*, now a farm, was long the seat of the Colt family. The gateway alone remains of the ancient Edwardian mansion. It is a fine specimen of domestic architecture. The Ch., dedicated to St. Peter, has E. Eng. and Perp. characteristics, and consists of a nave, N. aisle, and chancel, with a square embattled tower.

Here the Stort pours its tributary waters into the Lea. The Cambridge branch of the *Great Eastern Railway* traverses the valley of the Stort from 2m. S. of Manewden to Roydon, and has stations at *Stanstead Mountfichet*, *Bishop's Stortford* (Herts), *Sawbridgeworth* (Herts), Harlow, Burnt Mill, and Roydon.

#### THE COLNE.

[*Main Points* : Ridgewell, Great Yeldham, Castle Hed-  
ingham, Sible Hedingham, Halstead, Earl's Colne, The  
Colne villages, Fordham, Lexden, Mile End, Colchester,  
Greenstead, East Donyland, Wivenhoe, Brightling, Mersey  
Island, St. Osyth Point.]

The *Colne*, famous for its oyster fisheries, rises in the parish of Ridgewell, 27m. N.W. of Colchester; passes by Hedingham, Halstead, and Colchester; it widens at Wivenhoe into an ample creek, and flows into the ocean between Mersey Island and St. Osyth Point. It is navigable only as far as the Hythe, just below Colchester. Vessels of 800 tons can ascend as far as Wivenhoe, or 8m. below Colchester. From this point, however, the channel is much contracted by the extensive shoals whereon are deposited the famous oyster-beds that supply the delicious "natives" for which Colchester is famed.

But to return to the source of our river. The position of *Ridgewell* is described in its name: it stands upon a hill which rises considerably above the source of the *Colne*. In *Causeway* it boasts of an old moated farm-house. The Roman "via" from Colchester to Cambridge passed through this parish, and many relics of the Imperial colonists, including portions of a Roman villa, have been

discovered here. The Ch., dedicated to St. Lawrence—a large and handsome structure, with a square embattled tower—formerly belonged to the convent of Waterbeach, in Cambridgeshire. It was restored in 1871. Near the E. end of the Ch. is a spring, or well, which, with the Ridgway, gives name to the village.

3m. down the stream we arrive, among trees and water-courses, at *Great Yeldham*. Near the Cambridge road, which follows the Colne pretty closely, stands “Yeldham Oak,” a large and venerable tree, rearing its noble crest to a height of 80ft. Its girth near the ground is 27ft. Spayne’s Hall formerly belonged to the De Hispaniâ, or Spayne family. The Ch. is Perp. with a stately tower, and contains a richly-carved oaken screen, embellished with the arms of the De Veres and others.

*Little Yeldham* lies to the N.E., and has a small E. Eng. Ch. with a wooden turret. The interior was restored in 1870; it is seated with open benches.

The Colne now traverses the pastoral landscapes of the two Hedinghams—*Castle Hedingham*, lying on the N.E., and *Sible Hedingham*, on the S.W. The former became remarkable in 1868 for a reputed case of witchcraft, when a deaf and dumb old man, a foreigner, was ill-used even to death, on suspicion of having bewitched an ailing woman. The village is large and well built upon the slope of the Colne valley, in the heart of much agreeable scenery, which the clustering hops in autumn considerably enliven. The square, lofty, and massive *keep* of the ancient Castle, whence the village derives its prefix, still stands upon its artificial mound—a good example of the Norman stronghold. The walls vary in thickness from 12ft. to 10ft.; height, upwards of 100ft.; area, 62ft. by 55ft. It consists of five stories, and is very strongly built. On the W. side was the gateway; the grooves for the portcullis are extant even yet. The upper windows are enriched with the usual Norman zigzag ornament. The great hall was on the fourth storey; 88ft. by 31ft., and 28ft. high. Here, it is said, died Queen Maud, the wife of the valiant Stephen. In 1216 the castle was captured by King John from Robert de Vere, third Earl of Oxford. In the following year it surrendered to Prince Lewis, Dauphin of France, but was soon regained by the Earl of Pembroke on behalf of the young king, Edward I. It remained in the possession of the De Veres (Earls of

Oxford) until the failure of the line and extinction of the title in 1655. By the last Earl the castle was dismantled, and the parks parcelled out into farms.

A Benedictine *Priory* was founded here, *circa* 1190, by Aubrey De Vere and his wife Lucia, who became the first Prioress. Some parts of it are embodied in a farm-house.

"Kirby Hall, in this parish, formerly the seat of a branch of the De Veres, and the residence of the great General Lord Vere of Tilbury, is now a farm-house."—*Kelly*.

The Ch., dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a stately Perp. structure, except the tower, which was rebuilt in 1616. The screen is finely carved, and the timber-work of the roof displays some curious ornamentation. John de Vere, fifteenth Earl of Oxford, and his wife lie interred in a handsome tomb. The fabric was restored in 1871.

*Sible Hedingham* consists of two well-built streets. In this district the hop is cultivated, though not to the same extent as in Kent; and the surrounding farms, watered by numerous brooks, present an appearance of profitable cultivation. The Ch., dedicated to St. Peter, dates from the reign of Edward III., and has a notable embattled tower. Its founder was probably a member of the knightly Hawkwood family. Sir John Hawkwood was a famous leader of Free Lances. Of his monument, which occupied a recess in the S. wall, scarcely a vestige has been spared. Hawks sculptured on different parts of the Ch. commemorate the benefactions of his son and family. In the chancel are four windows of stained glass; and a reredos has been added in gold and colours, bearing a large painting of the Crucifixion and representations of the Twelve Apostles.

A farm-house in this parish, formerly known as the Chantry House, was originally used for the reception and entertainment of pilgrims.

At the point of intersection of the Bury and Norwich road with the Colchester road stands the busy market-town, railway station, and agricultural centre of *Halstead* (pop. 6,904; 46m. from London). Several silk and crape manufactories are conducted here, and a portion of the population are employed in making straw-plat. From the Conquest a market has been held at Halstead, and *Chepping Hill* (from *chepe*) indicates its original site.

The parish Ch., dedicated to St. Andrew, is a large and venerable pile, with a square tower crowned by a wooden

spire. It is rich in memorials and monuments, one of which, an altar tomb, with a cross-legged effigy of Sir Robert Bouchier, K.G., was for a long time buried beneath the pavement. The Bouchier family were of Stanstead Hall, in this parish, and one of them, in 1840, founded a chantry for a master and five priests. The chantry house stood in the centre of the town. Holy Trinity Ch., a favourable specimen of modern E. Eng., was built in 1844; its spire is 174ft. high. St. James's Ch., at Greenstead Green, was built in 1845. The Free Grammar School dates from 1590; its founder was Lady Mary Ramsey, who entrusted it to Christ's Hospital, London. The Town Hall, in the High Street, is a spacious building used for public meetings and concerts.

*Gosfield*, 8m. S.W. from Halstead, has an ancient Ch. dedicated to St. Catherine, in which are some curious monuments; there is also a chapel, named after the Wentworth family, appurtenant to the mansion and estate of Gosfield Hall; in the churchyard is the mausoleum of the Courtauld family.

The Hall (Col. Lowe) was in the last century the seat of Earl Nugent, from whom it passed by marriage to the Marquis of Buckingham, who sold it to Mr. E. G. Barnard, sometime M.P. for Greenwich. From him it was bought by the Courtaulds, from whom it has passed by marriage to its present owner. It is a building of the Tudor era, considerably altered, but still showing much of its original quadrangular plan. In the park is a large lake. Louis XVIII., under the name of Comte de Lille, took up his abode here in 1807.

The Colne still pursues a south-easterly course, and traverses several villages, which derive their name from their position on the river: Colne Engaine, N.E.; Earl's Colne, S.W.; White Colne, N.; Wakes Colne, S.; and Fordham, N. We shall briefly describe them in their proper order.

*Colne Engaine* received its affix from its lords, the Engaines, who held the manor from 1218 till 1870. The Ch., dedicated to St. Andrew, is mainly E. Eng., but its brick tower is not older than the reign of Henry VII. The edifice was restored in 1873. There are some handsome "seats" in this agreeable district, notably Colne Park (Robert Hills, Esq.), an estate covering upwards of 100 acres, and in which is a lofty Ionic column,



erected in 1791, which serves as a landmark for miles around.

*Earl's Colne*, or Great Colne, belonged to the De Veres, *Earls of Oxford*, who anciently had a mansion here, called *Hall Place*. The present manor house is the *Priory*, occupying the site of a Benedictine convent, founded by Aubrey de Vere, about 1100. Of the stately Priory Ch. there are, unfortunately, no traces. The parish Ch., dedicated to St. Andrew, is partly E. Eng.; the tower, Perp., has the De Vere arms carved in stone on the east and west sides. It contains three monuments to Earls of Oxford, preserved from the ruins of the ancient church.

*White Colne* was originally *Colne Le Blanc*, from the Le Blanc family, who held it at the epoch of Domesday Book, but from whom it soon passed to the De Veres. Its Ch., dedicated to St. Andrew, consists of chancel, nave, square tower, and spire; it was restored in 1870.

*Wakes Colne* is situated at the point where the Chappel viaduct of the Stour Valley Railway crosses the vale. The manor belonged to the Wakes, whose heiress, Margaret, married Edmund of Woodstock, Earl of Kent. The Ch., dedicated to All Saints, is a plain E. Eng. structure, with a tall tower of wood.

*Fordham* stands on an old ford across the Colne, which here swells into a considerable stream. It is sometimes called *Great Fordham*, to distinguish it from *Little Fordham*, or *Oldham* (the "old home"), on the other bank of the river. The Ch., dedicated to All Saints, which rises on a pleasant ascent, has a nave, aisles, chancel, and square tower, surmounted by a lofty wooden spire. The lead was stripped from the roof, in the Civil War, to melt into bullets. The Ch. was restored in 1861.

W. of Fordham lies *Bergholt* (=the settlement in the wood), on the edge of a large common. In the neighbourhood is a circular British camp. The Ch. has Norman and E. Eng. portions.

Following the course of the Colne we pass *Mile End* (or St. Michael Myland), 1m. N. from Colchester. Here is a station on the Great Eastern Railway. The Ch., dedicated to St. Michael, is of E. Eng. architecture and was built in 1854.

With many a reach and curve the river flows on to

COLCHESTER (pop. in 1871, 26,843).

[50m. from London by road, 22m. from Chelmsford, 20m. from Harwich. Includes 16 parishes. Returns two members to Parliament. Is an archdeaconry in the diocese of St. Albans; and is now in the South-Eastern Circuit. The town derives its name from its position on the Colne—*Colne-ceaster*, the fortified town on the Colne.]

The ancient name of *Colchester* was *Camalodunum*, "the hill-town at the bend of the river," which, according to Dion. Cassius, was the capital of the Trinobantes, and the residence of their king, Cunobelin. Mr. J. H. Round, in his "History of Colchester Castle," has investigated the claims of this town as to its identification with the British *Camalodunum*, in opposition to Maldon, which some antiquaries have asserted to be the spot so named. Mr. Round fixes the site of the ancient *Camalodunum* as "the whole tongue of land between the two streams and the great ramparts, on the north centre of which space Colchester now stands."

Here the Romans planted the earliest and one of the most important of their cities; and the notices of its foundation, and of some points in its history, to be found in classical writers, give a distinctness and certainty to our knowledge of its early condition which we do not obtain in the case of any other Roman town in Britain.

In 1830, in digging for the foundations of the Essex and Colchester Hospital, some workmen came upon one of the finest relics of Roman art that has ever been discovered in England—a sphinx, carved in freestone. The base of the stone is a little over 25in. in length by 10in. in breadth, and it is 25in. high. It was found lying on one side, little more than two feet from the surface. Near it was found another stone sculpture representing the leg of a Roman soldier, and a portion of a sepulchral inscription, showing that the place was a burial ground. These relics are kept in the Museum at Colchester; the sphinx is engraved in the "National Magazine," p. 117.

Since the above date a large number of articles, throwing light upon the early history of the town, have been discovered, but of these a vast quantity have been dispersed, and of the great majority no record exists. But for some years past greater local interest has been taken in the preservation of these antiquities, and a sufficient number have been gathered together within a short time to make the united collections of the Corporation of Colchester and

the Essex Archæological Society, in some respects, one of the richest local collections in the kingdom. Other objects are preserved in various public and private collections ; and careful records exist in the notes and drawings of the late Mr. Wire of some which are now dispersed and lost sight of : there is thus, in the whole, a large accumulation of material for the illustration of the history of Roman Colchester, and of the Roman period of English history. Greek coins also have been found at Colchester.

This place was occupied by the Romans under Claudius, and organized as a military post. Pleasantly situated on a breezy acclivity, watered by a navigable river, and at a convenient proximity to the sea, it soon grew into an important settlement. Of its prosperity and extent we may form some conjecture from the circumstance that more Roman relics have been found here than in any other part of England : the town walls, the churches, the castle, and other ancient buildings are chiefly built of Roman brick. Sepulchral urns, vases, lamps, rings, pateræ, intaglios have been, and are still being, exhumed here ; memorials of the past which the archæologist and the poet may equally regard with interest.

The Saxons in their turn adopted the British hill-town as a settlement ; but as London increased in importance so Colne-ceaster declined, and when the Danes harassed the maritime counties of England with fire and sword, the accessibility of this river-port exposed it to their frequent ravages. About 870 they made themselves master of Colchester, and retained possession of it until 921, when it was recaptured by Edward the Elder, and almost every Dane within its walls was put to the sword.

After the Norman Conquest it appears to have thriven exceedingly, for at the Domesday epoch it was noted as containing 276 burgesses, who held 855 houses. Eudo de Rie, dapifer, or steward, to William Rufus, was its Norman lord, and built a massive castle on the site of an older fortress. He also repaired the town walls, founded abbeys, monasteries, and churches, and ruled over Colchester with a liberal hand.

During the revolt of the Barons against King John it was alternately occupied by the rival armies ; was captured by Prince Louis, the Dauphin of France, in 1218, but re-taken in the following year. It contributed five ships and 170 marines to the fleet of Edward III. ; was devas-

tated by the plague in 1348 and 1360. It is said by early ecclesiastical historians that a Bishop of Colchester attended the Council of Arles in 314 A.D. At the Reformation, Colchester was one of the towns designed by Henry VIII. to be erected into a Bishopric, but the intention was not carried out. In 1882 it was made the title of a suffragan, or coadjutor, Bishop to St. Albans. The town was visited by Queen Mary soon after her accession in 1533, and illuminated soon afterwards by the fires she kindled in support of her faith. Twenty persons suffered death by fire in 1555, '56, '57, and '58.

In the reign of Elizabeth, the expatriated Dutch and Flemings, driven to England by the cruel policy of the Duke of Alva, introduced here their improvements in the woollen manufactures, and the town waxed exceedingly prosperous. The queen made a triumphal entrance in 1579, and abode in the town for two days.

When the troubles of Charles the First's reign grew to a crisis, Colchester, which had long been the centre of much free religious and political thought, declared for the Parliament. It contributed money, men, and horses towards that "Eastern Association for the Parliament" in whose organization Cromwell had so large a share. It raised and equipped two complete companies of infantry, and in six years swelled the Parliament treasury with no less a sum than £30,000. In 1648 a body of Royalists, under Sir Charles Lucas and the Earl of Norwich, succeeded in capturing the town by a sudden stroke. Fairfax straightway marched to retake it, but was met with bold defiance and insolent jeers; he instantly assaulted it, but was constrained to withdraw his weary forces. He then sat down to blockade the town, and after eleven weeks of famine the Royalists surrendered. Two of their leaders, Sir C. Lucas and Sir George Lisle, were immediately tried by Council of War, and shot outside the castle wall.

In 1665 the plague visited Colchester. It returned in the following year; the two visitations slaying upwards of 4700 victims. This was the last memorable incident in its annals. For two centuries Colchester has made a steady and peaceful progress, and no shock of war, no civil commotion, no terrible catastrophe has diversified its happily tranquil history.

Three bridges span the Colne at Colchester. North Bridge is a handsome structure of cast iron, of three

arches ; East Bridge, erected about the beginning of the present century, is built of brick, with five arches ; and the Hythe Bridge, constructed principally of iron, was built in 1878 ; the former bridge, which was a plain brick structure of three arches, dating from 1737, having been washed away by a flood at Christmas, 1876. The river is navigable up to this point.

The *Corn Market* and new Corn Exchange are handsome buildings of undeniable utility.

The *Town Hall*, erected in 1844, on the site of the ancient *Moot Hall* (Saxon, *môte*, a place of meeting), exhibits the leading features of modern classicism, and is not without a certain air of magnificence. In the public room is a portrait of Mr. Charles Gray Round, of Birch Hall, who was for many years Recorder of Colchester, and formerly M.P. for North Essex.

The *Theatre*, in Queen-street, is a modern erection.

*Essex Hall*, close to the North Railway Station, is a large building in the Italian style, with an ornamental tower. It was originally built as an hotel, but, proving unsuccessful, was used for some years as a branch of the Earlswood Asylum for Idiots. In 1859 it was opened as an Eastern Counties Asylum, for the care and training of idiots and imbeciles belonging to the counties of Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridge.

Colchester Camp is the head-quarters of the eastern military district. In 1854 the Government provided accommodation for 5000 men on the Ordnance Field, near the town, on the road to Mersea, and subsequently purchased a large farm close to the present camp for building and for exercising purposes ; very extensive barracks for cavalry and artillery have been erected. Two regiments of militia also are stationed here.

The remains of the *Castle*, a Norman structure built of Roman material, are considerable, and highly interesting. They occupy the crest of a hill, north of the High Street, and are laid out in the form of a parallelogram, 140ft. by 102ft. The walls are 30ft. thick at the foundation, and diminish to 11ft. thick at the upper story. The principal entrance has a Norman arch. The *Chapel* wears an air of venerable antiquity ; has a bold arched roof, and is lighted by five windows. There is in the Castle a Library, founded by Dr. Samuel Harsnett, Archbishop of York ; there is also a Museum, chiefly noted for the value of the Roman antiquities found in the locality.

The Castle, according to the Rev. Henry Jenkins, was built by a colony of Romans, as a temple to their deified Emperor, Claudius Cæsar; but the Saxon chronicle refers it to Eudo Dapifer, steward to William the Conqueror, and its testimony receives no small confirmation from the circumstance of its general structure being Norman. The Crown became possessed of the castle at a very early period, and it was granted by the Empress Maud to Alberic de Vere, ancestor of the Veres, Earls of Oxford. Since the reign of Henry III. it has repeatedly changed masters, one of whom, named Wheeley, in 1688, made a vain attempt at dilapidating it. It now belongs to the Rounds.

The *Town Walls* originally encompassed an area of 1000 yards in length, and 600 in breadth. The line is still in a great measure unbroken, and the masses extant are architecturally interesting.

*St. John's Abbey*, S. of the town, was founded by Eudo de Rie, in 1097, and endowed for a provost and twelve Benedictine monks. It continued in a flourishing condition until the Dissolution, when it passed into the hands of the Lucas family, who converted it into their place of residence. During the siege of 1648 the Roundhead ordnance shattered it into ruins, and its Decor. gateway alone remains. The garden walls, enclosing about fourteen acres, are in tolerable preservation.

The most interesting of the ecclesiastical antiquities of Colchester are the ruins of St. Botolph's Ch., formerly the Chapel of St. Botolph's Priory, situate on the hillside without the south walls, just outside the gate which bore that saint's name. It was founded early in the 12th century for canons of the Augustinian order by a monk, Egnulph, or Ernulph, who became its first prior. The Pope gave to this convent precedence over every other house of the same order in England, and exempted it from episcopal jurisdiction. The other buildings were destroyed at the Reformation, when its site and revenues, valued at £118, were granted by Henry VIII. to his Chancellor, Sir Thomas Audley. He sold the property, which passed into various hands, and part of the building was used as a brewery. The church was 108ft. long, by 46ft. in width; it is built almost entirely of red bricks, mostly of Roman manufacture, laid in rows; the Norman arches and arcades of its west front are very fine.

Morant styles the edifice, "noble and magnificent," and says that one of its two western towers was standing within the memory of old persons alive when he wrote. The Ch. was battered down by the cannon of Fairfax, when he besieged the town. Until the Civil Wars, St. Botolph's was the chief church of Colchester, and the Mayor and Corporation used to go to it in state on Sundays to hear "the General Preacher," as their chaplain, or lecturer, was called.

The Cruched Friary, near Crouch-street, was founded about 1244 for Crossed or Cruched Friars of the Augustinian order. The name of the modern street is the only *souvenir* of this religious house.

*All Saints' Ch.*, distinguished by a handsome Perp. tower, was restored in 1861.

*St. Botolph's*, a Decor. building, of white brick, erected about 1830, in a style corresponding with ruins of the old Priory, a short distance off.

*St. Giles's*, a small and ancient structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and north aisle. Here lie the remains of Sir Charles Lucas and Sir George Lisle, shot by order of General Fairfax, after the surrender of the town in 1648. (See above.)

*St. James's* is a large and handsome edifice; the tower, nave, and aisles are built of stone and Roman bricks. It was restored in 1871.

*St. Leonard's* is a commodious structure, with some good architectural features, including a fine open carved roof, and some curious frescoes and niches in the tower.

*St. Martin's* is of considerable antiquity; the tower was partly destroyed during the siege of 1648.

*St. Runwald's*, a small church, which projected into the centre of the High Street on the north side, was pulled down in 1873, and the parish joined on to that of St. Nicholas, the Ch. of which was restored and greatly enlarged by Sir G. Gilbert Scott in 1876.

*St. Mary's*, *St. Mary Magdalen's*, and *Holy Trinity* have their points of interest. In Trinity Ch. is a mural monument with bust and inscription to William Gilbert, M.D., author of a treatise on the Magnet, and the inventor of several mathematical instruments, who died 1603.

The principal Ch. is that of *St. Peter's*, where the arch-deacon's visitations are usually held. It was severely

injured by an earthquake in September, 1692, and has been so often repaired and restored that it is difficult to distinguish any portion of the ancient building. The Colchester Churches, however, will well repay a careful examination on the part of the ecclesiastical antiquarian or architectural student.

It is traditionally stated that the Empress Helen founded in Colchester a Ch. named after her, but which has now disappeared; and the cross in the arms of the borough commemorates the finding of the Cross of Christ by her at Jerusalem. Colchester, in fact, is said to have been the birthplace of the Empress Helen. "It would be heresy in Colchester to doubt this legend. It has been moulded into an article of the household faith of its inhabitants. It is emblazoned in their arms, and is to be heard even in the form of their principal street." —*Coller's "Essex."*

Colchester is governed by a mayor, six aldermen, eighteen councillors, and recorder. The county court, quarter sessions, and meetings of justices are held here. It has two weekly markets, and several annual fairs.

The oyster fishery of Colchester has long enjoyed an extensive reputation, the finest British oysters being spawned in the waters of the Colne. It is under the control of a company of dredgers, and produces annually from £10,000 to £12,000 worth. The *Port* comprises within its limits not only the river Colne and its creeks, but all those parts of the coast extending from St. Osyth's Point, N.N.E., to Walton-on-the-Naze, and westward to Tollesbury Point. Colchester enjoys extensive railway facilities, various branches of the *Great Eastern* concentrating on the banks of the Colne. The Colchester branch was first opened in 1843. The branch line to Wivenhoe, Brightlingsea, and Walton-on-the-Naze has since been opened.

Quitting the precincts of the ancient town, and following the Colne to its confluence with the sea, we shall pass on the W. bank the village of *East Donyland*; on the E. bank, *Wivenhoe*, *Alresford*, and *Brightlingsea*. Of these we must speak briefly.

At *East Donyland* (*dun*, or *hill-land*) a new Ch. was erected in 1838. In shape it is octagonal, and was imitated from the chapter house of York Cathedral.

*West Donyland*, 2m. N.W., has an ancient brick Ch.,



with massive embattled tower. *Bere-church Hall* is a handsome and commodious mansion.

*Wivenhoe* is seated on a picturesque acclivity, overlooking the Colne and its breezy estuary. Its inhabitants are mostly engaged in the oyster and sole fishery, boat-building, and other maritime pursuits. The *Hall* is a fine old mansion, which formerly belonged to the Earls of Oxford. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, is a goodly Perp. structure, containing some good memorials and a fine brass. It was restored in 1860.

*Alresford* has a Decor. Ch., dedicated to St. Peter, supposed to have been built at the close of the 13th century by Angred de Staunton. It was restored in 1856, and all the windows filled with stained glass. *Alresford Hall* (Mrs. Hawkins) occupies an eminence, surrounded by woods, about half a mile from the Ch.

*Brightlingsea* (Brightling's eyot, or isle) is a fishing village, on an inlet of the Colne Water, which is navigable for vessels of 150 tons, and has on each side of it, innumerable oyster layings. The Ch., dedicated to All Saints, is situated on elevated ground, about a mile and a quarter from the village, and forms an admirable sea-mark. It is built of flint, with stone dressings.

### (e) *The Blackwater.*

[*Main Points*: Wimbish, Radwinter, the two Sampfords, the two Bardfields, Shelford, Bocking, Panfield, Braintree, Stisted, Pattiswick, Coggeshall, Feering, Kelvedon, the two Braxteds, Wickham Bishops, Langford, Heybridge.]

The *Blackwater*, or *Pant*, rises near Saffron Walden, between Wimbish and Radwinter, whence it continues a circuitous course, upon the whole in a S.E. direction, to Maldon, where it is joined by the Chelmer, and extends from thence eastward through a broad estuary to the ocean between Bradwell-juxta-Mare and Mersey Island. This river is navigable only to Maldon, but barges pass from thence to Chelmsford, through the Chelmer and Blackwater navigation.

From Wimbish, near Saffron Walden, to Radwinter, the *Blackwater* takes an easterly course, then flows S.E. to Braintree, again turns eastward as far as Coggeshall,

S. to Kelvedon, S.W. to Wickham Bishops, and finally S.E. to its confluence with the Chelmer. Its course is therefore peculiarly circuitous, but lies, for the most part, through those rich green landscapes of arable and pasture land which are popularly known as Essex scenery.

*Wimbish*, "a pleasant straggling village" on deep, loamy soil, has an ancient Ch. of stone, except the tower, which was rebuilt with brick in 1740. It is dedicated to All Saints, and has been partially restored, the chancel being rebuilt in the Decorated style.

Thunderly was in the 15th century united with Wimbish. The parish Ch. has long ceased to exist, but portions of the foundations are visible.

*Radwinter Ch.*, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, is a goodly pile, chiefly of stone, with a massive embattled tower, crowned by a lofty spire. The Rev. Robert Harrison, a Canon of Windsor, rector here from 1558 till his death in 1598, wrote the "Historical Description of the Land of Britaine" inserted in Holinshed's Chronicles, and was the author of a treatise on "The Decay of the English Long Bow." The Ch. was enlarged, and the chancel rebuilt, in 1869; and the tower and spire were restored and a turret built in 1877.

Winding round the base of Radwinter Hill, the Blackwater entwines the open meadows of *Great Sampford*. Here the Ch., dedicated to St. Michael, is a handsome Decor. building, with a remarkably graceful interior. The tower is Perp. *Sampford Hall* was the seat of the late Sir Wm. Eustace. *Tindon End*, a mile and a half W., was the seat of Sir J. Macadam, the "Colossus of Roads," who "macadamized" our highways to the great comfort of the traveller.

*Little Sampford* has a good Ch., dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. Like so many of the Essex Churches, its tower is crowned by a lofty spire, probably intended as a landmark for travellers across the far-spreading levels.

*Finchingfield*, 3m. S.E., is built on an acclivity, which slopes towards an affluent of the Blackwater. *Spains Hall* (Col. Ruggles-Brise), standing in a park, is a favourable specimen of the picturesque Early Tudor. This estate was given by the Conqueror to one of his followers, under whom it was held by Harvey de Hispaniâ, or of Spain. In 1166 it passed to the Veres, or De Veres. The Spain family appear to have again held it for a time, and

from them it came to the Kemps. In 1727 it was conveyed in marriage to Sir Swynnerton Dyer, of Dunmow, whose brother sold it in 1760 to Samuel Ruggles, Esq., of Bocking. He was a relative of George Ruggles, the wit and scholar, whose play of *Ignoramus* was performed with applause before James I. at Cambridge, in 1614. His nephew, Thomas Ruggles, of Spains Hall, was the author of "The Barrister," "The History of the Poor," &c.

The Ch., dedicated to St. John the Baptist, stands on rising ground. It consists of chancel, nave, and aisles, and a tower with embattled parapet. Its spire was blown down in 1702. In the chancel is a monument to one William Kemp, died 1628, who for one *lapsus linguæ* imposed on himself the penalty of seven years' silence.

Near *Great Bardfield* the Blackwater strikes off to the east. The village was formerly a market-town, and has still a fair for cattle. The soil is a fruitful heavy loam. At *Bardfield Place* two rooms are shown as the retreat of the Princess Elizabeth from the persecution of her sister, Queen Mary. The Ch., dedicated to the Holy Trinity, has E. Eng. and Decor. portions, with the usual tower and tall spire. It contains a stone chancel screen. It formerly belonged to the priory of Stoke-by-Clare.

The Town Hall was built in 1859. There is a Literary Institution attached.

*Little Bardfield*, 1½ m. N.W., is situated amongst some pleasant wooded scenery. The Ch., dedicated to St. Katherine, is small and very ancient, chiefly E. Eng.

At *Wethersfield* the river resumes its S.E. course. The village is large, populous, and busy; its inhabitants partly employed in making straw plat, and partly in raising garden seeds, especially carrot seed. A disused chalybeate well is found on the road to Bocking. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, is a spacious and stately structure, consisting of nave, N. and S. aisles, chancel, and tower with spire. In the interior are a noticeable carved rood-screen of oak, stone, sedilia, piscina, and recumbent marble effigies of two of the Wentworths, lords of the noble old mansion of Codham Hall, in this parish. At Blackmore End may be traced the moat which encircled an ancient seat of the De Nevilles. A Ch., dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, was built here in 1867.

*Shelford*, 2 m. lower down the river, has an E. Eng.

Ch., dedicated to St. Andrew, which possesses some antique memorials, and a hagioscope, through which a person might witness the elevation of the Host unseen by the congregation. An ancient oak-screen separates the nave from the chancel; in the N. aisle is an Easter sepulchre. The fabric was restored in 1872.

*Bocking Ch.*, dedicated to St. Mary, stands on high ground above the river. It is a noble specimen of the handiwork of the builders *temp.* Edward III. There are a piscina, several stained memorial windows, and some mural monuments and brasses. Before the Reformation it contained three altars and five chantries. Its minister in 1661 was Dr. Gauden, who is said to have been the real author of the "Eikon Basiliké," which is generally ascribed to King Charles I. He was afterwards made Bishop of Exeter and of Worcester.

The road gradually gathers into a street as the traveller approaches *Braintree*, 2m. S., which is partly in Bocking parish.

*Braintree* (pop. 4790; 40m. from London, 12m. from Chelmsford) is a neat, well-built, and apparently thriving market-town, extending for a considerable distance along the high road, from the river Blackwater to the small river Brain. It contains some good houses, inns, and shops; is well paved and lighted; has a station on the Maldon branch of the *Great Eastern Railway*, finished in 1848; employs a large number of hands in the silk manufacture; and with corn-mills, malt-kilns, an iron-foundry, breweries, brush and straw plat factories, does a large and prosperous business. The *Corn Exchange*, built in 1839 at a cost of £8000, has a neat Ionic façade. It was enlarged in 1860, and again in 1877.

A colony of Flemings, which settled here in the reign of Elizabeth, gave a great impetus to the industrial activity of Braintree. Previously it had been chiefly supported by the pilgrims passing through it on the road to the shrines of St. Edmund at Bury, and Our Lady of Walsingham.

The Ch., dedicated to St. Michael, is a large building of flint and stone, and stands on the apparent site of an ancient encampment, on elevated ground, S. of the town. It chiefly dates from the reign of Edward III., but the S. aisle was built *temp.* Henry VIII. Its tower is surmounted by a lofty spire. The exterior of the building was restored in 1864, and the interior in 1866.

The Braintree County Court, a spacious brick edifice, situated on the Coggeshall road, was built in 1852.

"From the number of British and Roman coins and other relics found here, or in its immediate vicinity, it is conjectured that Braintree was successively a British and a Roman station; and it is pretty certain that the Roman road from Camalodunum (Colchester) to Verulamium (St. Albans) passed through it. It was constituted a market-town in the time of King John."—*Kelly*.

At Braintree the Blackwater turns off sharply to the eastward, and brightens and fertilizes the vale of *Stisted*. The *Hall* (O. Savill-Onley, Esq.), is a spacious mansion, in the modern classical style, situated in a picturesquely wooded park which rises gradually from the river-bank. The Ch., dedicated to All Saints, is an interesting Norman building, with E. Eng. additions, and a tower rebuilt in 1844. It has been well and liberally restored.

*Pattiswick Ch.*, dedicated to St. Mary, was built in the reign of Edward I. The village was anciently called *Pate's Wick* from the Pate family.

On the S. bank of the river lies *Bradwell*, a pleasant, breezy open village, deriving its name from a copious spring that sets in motion an overshot-mill on its way to the Blackwater. In the Hall, now a farm-house, may be seen some finely-carved wainscoting. The Ch., dedicated to St. Thomas, contains some stately monuments, is mainly E. Eng., and has the customary tower and spire. It was thoroughly restored in 1866. Among the monuments is one to Sir Anthony Maury and his lady, to whom this manor belonged *temp.* Elizabeth.

In 1864 were discovered here large hordes of Roman vessels and Samian pottery. It is supposed that here stood the Roman city of Othona. In a field hard by are the remains of the Chapel of St. Peter-on-the-Wall, now used as a farm building.

The eastward course of the Blackwater now brings us to

*Coggeshall* (pop. 3830; 5½m. E. of Braintree), a small ancient town, once a seat of the Essex woollen manufacture, and now partly employed in silk velvet weaving, cambric lace making, and similar branches of the silk trade. Considerable Roman remains have been exhumed here, but no satisfactory confirmation of the assertion of some antiquarians that the town was the Roman Canonium. An Abbey was founded near the river by King Stephen

and his wife Maud, in 1142, for Cistercian monks, and the religious house, so pleasantly situated, thrived and increased until the fatal epoch of the Dissolution. Its lands then passed to various lords, finally centering in the family of Du Cane. All its remains are embodied in a thatched barn, exhibiting the nave, chancel, porch, and three light windows of the priory Ch., apparently of the age of Henry III. The parish Ch., dedicated to St. Peter, is situated in the upper part of the town, is a good Decor. building of stone, with a square tower. It has been lately restored, and some of the windows are filled with stained glass.

Coggeshall was the birthplace of the eminent Puritan divine, the Rev. John Owen, 1616, the favourite chaplain of Oliver Cromwell.

Passing the ancient Abbey, the Blackwater turns to the S., and winds or meanders past the village of

*Feering.* The Ch. here, dedicated to All Saints, is a singularly interesting building. The chancel arch is Trans. Norm., the chancel dates from the later period of E. Eng., the N. aisle exhibits the features of the Decor. style, the nave is formed by graceful Decor. arches, the porch and S. wall of the nave are of fine red brick, dating from the 16th century; and the tower, of flint and freestone, is Perp. The erection of this stately pile would therefore seem to have taxed the resources and tested the zeal of many generations. It has been carefully restored, and the windows of the chancel filled with stained glass.

"At Feering Bury Manor House, now a farm, Bishop Bonner is said to have occasionally resided, and the arms of Heygate and a badge of Queen Elizabeth exist in a window of the house."—*Kelly*.

The Blackwater now passes under the London and Colchester branch of the Great Eastern Railway, to the large and populous agricultural village of

*Kelvedon* (pop. 1665; 10m. W.S.W. of Colchester, 41m. from London). Here are some good inns, some well-stocked shops, some large farms, and two old-established boarding-schools. It has a railway station, a fair on Easter Monday, a bridge of many arches, built in 1788. A short distance to the N. is *Felix Hall*, the seat of Sir Thomas Western. It is a fine specimen of the Italian Classical style, and was enriched by the late Lord Western with fine Italian statuary. Here is a good E. Eng. Ch. with a finely-carved Tudor ceiling, a piscina, and two hagio-

scopes. The Ch., which is dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, was restored in 1877.

*Laver Marney*, 5m. E. from Kelvedon, has the remains of a 16th century building of the finest brick, in the great entrance tower of Marney Hall, which was built in 1520 by Henry, Lord Marney. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, contains monuments to the Corsellis and Marney families. A portion of the fabric has been restored.

The river now pursues a south-westerly course to the two villages of *Great* and *Little Braxted*. In the former neighbourhood is the noble demesne—rich in wood and water, leaf and flower—of Braxted Park, the seat of the Du Canes, who (under the name of Du Quesne) emigrated from Flanders in the reign of Elizabeth. The Ch., dedicated to All Saints, stands within the park. It has E. Eng. characteristics. It was restored a few years ago.

At *Little Braxted* stands a quaint Norman Ch., dedicated to St. Nicholas, with an apsidal chancel. The porch is of wood, in the Tudor style. It was restored in 1856. It contains a brass, *temp.* Henry VII., to the memory of Anthony Roberts.

*Tiptree Heath*, 8m. S.E., was formerly part of the great Forest of Essex. It embraces parts of the parishes of Inworth, Messing, Tollesbury, Tolleshunt d'Arcy, Tolleshunt Knights, and Great Wigborough, and was formed into an ecclesiastical parish in 1859. The Ch., dedicated to St. Luke, is a small building consisting of chancel, nave, and aisle. Here formerly stood a Priory for black canons of the Augustinian order. *Tiptree Hall Farm* was the scene of the labours of the late Mr. J. J. Mechi, who, by "scientific drainage" and other appliances, brought a barren tract of land into a model estate, which men travelled many miles to visit. His annual gatherings here will be long remembered. A memorial to Mr. Mechi is about to be erected here.

"This place, when it came into the possession of Mr. Mechi, was a very poor farm, with a naturally bad soil; but now (1878), from superior management, yields abundant crops of all sorts. It comprises about 128 acres, on which Mr. Mechi expended upwards of £7,000 in draining, improving, and erecting steam machinery for irrigating, the application of liquid and other purposes of the farm, and in the erection of a handsome modern resi-

dence, and extensive and well-arranged farm buildings.”  
—*Kelly*.

At *Wickham Bishops*, a manor belonging to the See of London, is a small E. Eng. Ch., now disused. A new Ch. (St. Bartholomew) was built here in 1850.

The Blackwater now turns to the S.E., and winds past *Langford*, where there is an interesting Norman Ch., dedicated to St. Giles, to the village of *Heybridge*, a busy and prosperous manufacturing settlement. The bridge here has five arches. The Ch., dedicated to St. Andrew, is of mixed architecture, from Norm. to Decor. Its tower is massive, and broader at the base than is the nave. A basin and canal connected with the navigation of the Chelmer and Blackwater, iron-foundries, malt-kilns, and agricultural implement manufactories, lend a peculiar air of life and bustle to this neighbourhood. It may now, indeed, be considered as part of the town of *Maldon*, with which it is connected by two bridges. The Witham and Maldon branch of the Great Eastern Railway has a station here.

*Maldon* (pop. 5586; 14m. from Colchester, and 39m. from London) is a busy market-town, port, and borough, well situated on a commanding eminence above the S. bank of the Blackwater, at its junction with the Chelmer. The principal inns are the King's Head and the Blue Boar.

It gives the second title to the Earl of Essex; it is a Parliamentary borough, returning one representative to the House of Commons;\* a municipality, governed by a mayor, four aldermen, and twelve councillors; and a place of great trade and commercial activity. In the Saxon era it must have been a settlement of some importance, and Camden is in favour of its being the real Camalodunum. It was here that Edward the Elder encamped in 918 and 920, to withstand the progress of the Danish rovers. He raised here an extensive camp—of which the vestiges are plainly visible still—which the Danes unsuccessfully attacked in 921. In 993 the Vikings, under Unlaf, succeeded in capturing it, and in defeating the Saxon leader, Earl Byrhtnot, who was slain in the affray. The name *Mal-dune* is explained as “the Cross on the hill.”

\* Previous to the passing of the “Representation of the People” Act, in 1867, Maldon returned two members to Parliament.



Maldon is an extensive fishing station. As a port it extends to Tollesbury Point, on the N. of the Blackwater estuary, and S. to the mouth of the Thames. Leigh is its *sub-port*; and Burnham, Bradwell, and Rochford its *creeks*. The principal exports are corn and oysters; imports—timber, oil, seed-cake, and coal.

*All Saints' Ch.* is a large and ancient fabric, with a singular triangular tower, crowned by an hexagonal spire. The nave and S. aisle are admirable specimens of the Decor. style. The Ch. was restored in 1867, and considerable improvements made in the windows in 1877.

*St. Mary's Ch.* was anciently a sea-mark, with a beacon on the summit of its massive tower. Its foundation is attributed to Ingelric, a Saxon thegn, prior to 1056. The oldest portion, however, is the lower part of the tower, Norman. The W. entrance is late Decor.

"*St. Peter's Ch.*, which stood in the centre of the town, fell into ruins (the tower excepted) about 1665, and on the site of it Dr. Plume, then Archdeacon of Rochester, and a native of Maldon, erected, about 1704, a brick building adjoining the tower to contain his library, which he presented to the town; he also left a fund for its support and for the supply of new books. The library consists of about 6000 volumes, principally theological, many of them very rare and valuable works. The tower is a massive pile of rough stone, embattled, and having a spiral staircase in an octagonal turret at the N.W. angle."—*Kelly*.

The Town Hall is a lofty brick building, called also D'Arcy Tower, after Robert D'Arcy, escheator for this county to Henry V. He married a rich widow of Maldon, and founded three chantries in All Saints' Ch.

The Public Hall, in the High Street, was built in 1859; it contains the Literary and Mechanics' Institute and the Corn Exchange, the latter being occasionally used for concerts and similar entertainments.

The Grammar School was founded in 1608 by Ralph Breder, who left £300 for that purpose, which was invested in the purchase of land at Hatfield Peverel.

The custom of "Borough English," by which the youngest and *not* the eldest son succeeds to the burgage tenure of his father, is in force in this place.

Sir Edwin Landseer, and Herbert, the Royal Academician, were residents at Maldon in the early stages of their careers. The latter was a native of the place.

"A shopkeeper of this town, of the name of Edward Bright, was so enormously fat, as to weigh at the time of his death about 616lbs. He died at the age of 29, in the year 1750, and his waistcoat admitted of having seven men buttoned within it."—*Cook's Topography*.

Some remains of *Bileigh Abbey*, founded by Robert de Mantel, in 1180, for canons of the Premonstratensian order, are discernible about 1m. W., near the confluence of the Chelmer and Blackwater. They now form part of a farm-house.

Below Heybridge the Blackwater with the Chelmer broadens into a tidal estuary. On the N. stands the Ch. of *Goldhanger*, dedicated to St. Mary, partly E. Eng. and partly Tudor, with a nave, chancel, south chapel, porch, and square embattled tower. It has been thoroughly restored at the expense of the Leigh family.

*Tolleshunt*,  $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N., lies on a considerable hill, commanding some extensive prospects. There is here a moated house of the D'Arcys, whence the affix of the village name—*Tolleshunt D'Arcy*; and a Perp. Ch. of noble architecture, exhibiting some noteworthy features.

At *Tolleshunt Major* the Ch., dedicated to St. Nicholas, partly Norman and partly Perp., will attract the antiquarian's attention. Of *Beckingham Hall* only the Tudor gateway, embattled and turreted, remains.

The Ch. of *Tolleshunt Knights* is dedicated to All Saints. It is an isolated E. Eng. building, containing the dilapidated effigy of a Knight Templar.

*Tollesbury* is a large fishing village, on a creek united with the Blackwater estuary. Several large oyster-layings are maintained here. The marshes are fenced off from the sea by stout embankments, beyond which lie the salterns. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary, has an E. Eng. nave and embattled stone tower. The chancel and nave are modern.

On the S. side of the estuary, beyond the broad, low marshes, lie *Mundon* (above Lawling Creek); *Steeple*, S. of Steeple Marsh; and *St. Lawrence*, on the Bradwell road. *Mundon Ch.*, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of chancel and nave, with a square wooden belfry. At *Steeple* a Cluniac Priory was founded in 1175. *Steeple Ch.* (St. Lawrence) is a small brick building without a tower.

At *Purleigh*, 5m. W. of Mundon, there is a good Ch. of the Decor. period, dedicated to All Saints. It consists of

an embattled tower, nave, N. and S. aisles, chancel, and porch. The interior is well worth examination.

#### THE CROUCH.

[*Main Points*: Little Burstead, Great Burstead, Billericay, Ramsden Crays, Wickford, Runwell, North Fambridge, Cricksea, Burnham.]

*The Crouch* has its sources near little Burstead and Billericay, and runs eastward by Ramsden, Wickford, Fambridge, Cricksea, and Burnham, where it expands to about a mile in breadth, and extends along the north sides of Wallasea and Foulness Islands to the ocean.

*Little Burstead* was the last resting-place of Admiral Sir George Walton. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary, consists of chancel and nave, with a low spire.

At *Great Burstead* are the remains of a camp, called Blunts Walls, in which Roman coins and antiquities have been found. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, consists of chancel, nave, aisles, north and south porches, and a tower and spire. It contains several interesting monuments. 1½m. S. is the market-town of

*Billericay* (pop. 1451; '24m. from London). Billericay stands on a lofty hill. It has a weekly corn-market and two fairs, and was formerly a place of great trade. The present Ch., dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, is a plain brick building, and dates from about 1690. The tower, however, was probably built *temp.* Edward IV. The Romans had a colony here on a road to the seacoast or to the ferry at Tilbury.

The two sources of the Crouch unite below *Ramsden Crays*, where there is a small E. Eng. Ch. (restored in 1871), and proceed, with a slight north-easterly inclination, to the twin villages of *Runwell*, on the N. Bank, and *Wickford*, on the S. The latter is hemmed in by the river in a sort of peninsula, and rejoices in a rich loamy soil. The Crouch is here crossed by three bridges. The Ch. was rebuilt in 1876, the Tudor roof of the chancel being retained.

*Runwell* stands on a gentle slope rising gradually from the river. Some remains of the ancient manor house of *Flemynge* are worth inspection. The Ch., in the Perp. style, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, is a spacious structure, its stone tower surmounted by a shingled spire.

Among the monuments is one to Sir Thomas Raymond, Justice of the King's Bench, who died in 1685.

Still to the N.E. runs the Crouch, and at *North Farnbridge* breaks into a wider channel. The Ch. of this place, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is an ancient brick edifice, with a west porch and small wooden belfry.

Marshes now extend on either bank, and inland, on their very edge, stands the village of *Canewdon*, commanding a wide view of the river valley, and of the battle-field of Ashingdon, where Canute the Dane defeated Edmund Ironside. The Romans had a station here, and numerous relics have been discovered. The Ch., dedicated to St. Nicholas, stands on a lofty hill, and its steeple, 74ft. high, is an admirable landmark.

The Crouch and the Broomhill river almost surround *Wallasea Island*; opposite stands the village of *Burnham*, celebrated for its extensive oyster-fishery and admirable quay. There is also a custom-house and a coastguard station. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary, is a Gothic edifice of stone and flint. It was restored in 1874. The oysters of the Crouch and its creek are highly esteemed.

From this point the Crouch flows eastward through the marshes to mingle with the sea.

#### THE RODING.

[*Main Points*: The nine Rothering villages, Fyfield, Norton Mandeville, High Ongar, Chipping Ongar, Kelvedon Hatch, Navestock, Stapleford Tawney, the three Thoydons, Loughton, Chigwell, Woodford, Snaresbrook, Wanstead, Ilford, Barking, Barking Creek.]

The *Roding* rises S. of the village of *Great Canfield*, and in its south-by-westerly course passes through the green meadows of several villages,\* which derive their names from their position on or near the river. These are: High Rothering, Aythorp Rothering, Leaden Rothering, White Rothering (W.), Margaret Rothering (E.), Abbots Rothering, and Rothering Beauchamp. Rothering Berners and Rothering Morrell are also named from this river. It afterwards flows onwards through Ongar, Stapleton, Woodford,

\* This district is collectively styled The Rotherings, and its inhabitants are thought by the rest of the county to be very stupid.

Wanstead, Ilford, and Barking—the resort of a complete flotilla of fishing-smacks—falling into the Thames about 8m. below the last-named place.

*High Rothering, Rothering, or Roding* straggles along the high ground E. of the river. The Ch., dedicated to All Saints, is a small, low E. Eng. building, with a wooden turret. It was restored in 1855.

*Roding Aythorp, or Arthorp* (the “high village upon the Roding”), has a small antique Ch., dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, of the E. Eng. period.

*Morrell Rothering* is a solitary hamlet. Its ancient Chapel was long used as a pigeon-house. The place is now united to *White Rothering*, a pleasantly situated village, where there is an interesting Ch., dedicated to St. Martin. It has a square embattled tower, surmounted by a lofty spire.

*Roding Beauchamp* was formerly a manor of the Beauchamps. The Ch., dedicated to St. Botolph, stands on a bold eminence, overlooking an extensive pastoral landscape. It was restored in 1870, and several of the windows have been filled with stained glass.

At *Roding Berners* is said to have been born Dame Juliana Berners, Prioress of Sopewell Nunnery, and the author of sundry famous treatises on Hunting, Hawking, and Fishing. The Ch. is E. Eng.

*Leaden Roding* has a small E. Eng. Ch. with a wooden spire. *Margaret Roding* has a small semi-Norman Ch., dedicated to St. Margaret.

*Abbots, or Abbess, Roding* was long held by the Abbess of Barking Convent. It possesses an E. Eng. Ch. (St. Edmund's), which was restored and enlarged in 1867.

*Fyfield* is 8m. N.E. of Chipping Ongar. The Ch., dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a building of some interest. The tower rises between the nave and chancel. The E. window is Decor., and in the S. wall of the chancel are three arches rising one above another, and supported by two columns of grey marble.

In the moated manor house of Asteylyns at *High Ongar* was concealed the Duke of Norfolk when charged with treasonable dealings with Mary Queen of Scots. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary, is an E. Eng. structure. In 1858 the steeple was superseded by a brick tower.

*Ongar, or Chipping (i.e., Market), Ongar* (pop. 946) was formerly called Aungre, and perhaps is at bottom the

same word as "hanger," so common in some parts as marking a hanging wood. Others derive the name from the German, "Anger," a green or common. The place, which was a settlement of the Saxon Cyringas, is a neat and decent market-town situated at the confluence of the Cripsey Brook with the river Roding, 28m. N.E. of London. Here Richard de Lucy, Chief Justiciary of Ireland, built a moated castle; but the moat alone remains. Roman bricks have been wrought into the walls of the small, neat E. Eng. Ch., and foundations of Roman buildings have been exhumed in the churchyard. The edifice, which is dedicated to St. Martin, consists of chancel, nave, and spire. A statute fair is held at Ongar annually in October.

*High Laver*, 4m. N.W., has a Ch. dedicated to All Saints, of no great interest in itself; but in the churchyard near the south-east corner of the Ch. is a marble gravestone, with iron rails, commemorating John Locke, the philosopher, who died at Otes Park, in this parish (the residence of his friend Sir Francis Masham), in 1704. The tomb, together with the Ch., was restored in 1865.

S. of Chipping Ongar—or "Ongar" alone, as its inhabitants call it—the Roding runs west of *Kelvedon Hatch* and its open common. The Ch. of Kelvedon Hatch, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a brick edifice, consisting of chancel, nave, and a small tower. It contains several interesting monuments and brasses. The Ch. was restored in 1878. Kelvedon Hall (E. C. Wright, Esq.) is an elegant mansion, surrounded by woods and plantations, and having a piece of ornamental water in the grounds.

The river now approaches nearer to *Navestock*, where some remains exist of a British camp, and where there is an E. Eng. Ch. dedicated to St. Thomas the Apostle, with a Norman doorway, and several good memorials to members of the Waldegrave family. Navestock Hall, now a farm, was formerly the seat of the Earls Waldegrave. Dudbrooke Hall, in this parish, is the seat of Lord Carlingford, who inherited it from his wife, Lady Waldegrave.

Pursuing a very sinuous course, the Roding approaches *Stapleford Abbots*. The manor formerly belonged to the Abbey of St. Edmund's Bury, and was one of the places where the monks, in 1010, rested with the body of that saint on its removal from London to the aforesaid Abbey.

The E. Eng. Ch., dedicated to St. Mary, is a small edifice. The tower was rebuilt in 1815, and the rest of the fabric in 1862.

*Stapleford Tawney*, on the opposite side of the river, has a small, ancient Ch. dedicated to St. Mary. Suttons, in this parish, the seat of Sir C. Cunliffe Smith, Bart., stands in a wooded park, near the banks of the Roden.

In a wood between *Stapleford* and *Lambourne* may be traced the *Bishop's Moat*, traditionally reputed to have been paved with marble, and really one of the defences of the stronghold (*Shepes Hall*) erected here by Spencer, Bishop of Norwich, a warrior of the Church Militant who had seen service in Italy, and fought the rebels in England in the insurrection of 1381. It commands a fine view of the valley of the Thames. *Lambourne* Ch., dedicated to St. Mary and All Saints, is a quaint E. Eng. structure, with some rich stained glass and many noticeable memorials. The N. doorway is Norman. Among the monuments is one to Bishop Wynwylf, or Winefle, of Lincoln.

On the W. bank of the river lie *Stanford Rivers*, formerly an appendage of the Rivers family, and *Thoydon Mount*, a pleasant village on a considerable ascent. Here is *Hill Hall* (Sir W. Bowyer Smijth, Bart.), a quadrangular mansion, of which the oldest portion dates from 1548. The Ch. was rebuilt in the 17th century. It contains an effigy under canopy of Sir Thomas Smijth, who died 1577.

The Ch. of *Stanford Rivers*, dedicated to St. Margaret, contains some monuments of the 15th and 16th centuries, to the Shelton, Mulcaster, and Gibbs families. Some windows in the chancel are of stained glass.

At *Thoydon Gernon*, successively held by the Thoydons and Gernons—the scenery is of a picturesque and richly-wooded character. The Ch., dedicated to All Saints, has a massive square tower, and contains several ancient monuments. *Gaynes Park*, the seat of W. S. Chisenhale-Marsh, Esq., occupies a commanding situation.

*Thoydon Bois* belonged to the De Boscos, or Du Bois, and was formerly within the precincts of Epping Forest. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary, was rebuilt in 1843, and is Norman in its architectural style.

From hence the Roding traverses in a south-westerly direction a pleasant breadth of country, still fairly

wooded. About 3m. S.W. we arrive at *Loughton*, extending for some distance along the London road. The green masses of Epping Forest form a delightful background to this pretty suburban village, which the railway brings within half an hour's ride of the metropolis. The new Ch., built in 1846, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist, occupies the crest of a hill. It is a cruciform building in the Norman style, and was enlarged in 1877. The Ch. of St. Mary the Virgin, in the E. Eng. style, was erected in 1871.

Across the river, and about 2½m. S.E., lies another charming suburban retreat—*Chigwell*, on the borders of Hainault Forest. The river here flows through "enchanted ground," and glimpses of almost arcadian landscapes are caught through a picturesque framework of pendant foliage. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary, is E. Eng., and contains, on the wall at the E. end, an incised effigy in brass, with arms and inscription, to Samuel Harsnett, Archbishop of York (*obit.* 1681). The S. doorway is Norman, and approached by a noble avenue of sombre yews. Many new district Churches have of late years been erected in this neighbourhood, which is pleasantly dotted with old timbered houses and modern villas. *Rolls Park* and *Woolston Hall* are the two principal seats in this vicinity. The *Grammar Schools* were founded by Archbishop Harsnett in 1629. *Chigwell* stands on high ground, embosomed in woods. From *Chigwell Row*, or *Rough*, as it was formerly called, is a fine view extending into Kent. The district is inhabited mostly by city merchants. Its inn, the *Maypole*, is well known to all readers of Charles Dickens.

3½m. S.W., on the lower bank of the Roding, stands *Woodford*, with a station on the Great Eastern Railway. The village, built round an open green, has long been justly famous for its wholesome air and picturesque scenery. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary, was rebuilt, except the tower, in 1816; it is a good specimen of E. Eng., and contains a good painted E. window.

Beyond *Woodford* the river turns to the S.E., leaving on the W. the beautiful villages of *Snaresbrook* and *Wanstead*, both favourite retreats of London citizens, and connected with the metropolis by long lines of handsome houses. *Wanstead Flats* are rapidly being enclosed.

The Manor of *Wanstead* was confirmed by Edward the



Confessor to the Abbey of Westminster. It was granted by Edward VI., or more probably by the Protector Somerset, to Lord Rich, who sold it to the Earl of Leicester. Here that courtier entertained his royal mistress, Queen Elizabeth, for some days in 1598, and it was here that he married the Countess of Essex.

The estate having reverted to the Crown through the death of the Earl of Leicester, was given by James I. to Sir Henry Mildmay, the head of an old Essex family, who was one of the judges on King Charles's trial, in consequence of which it was again forfeited. It was given by Charles II. to his brother James, Duke of York, who sold it to Sir Robert Brooks. From the Brooks family it came by purchase to Sir Josiah Child, an alderman and wealthy banker of London, whose son and successor, Sir Richard, afterwards Earl Tilney, built here a magnificent mansion in the reign of George I. It was designed by Colin Campbell in the Italian style. The S. front was upwards of 250ft. in length by 72ft. in depth, and faced with Portland stone. No expense was spared in its erection and embellishment; and it was the only rival to Canons within twenty miles of London. It was filled with the finest statuary and paintings, and many of the principal rooms were hung with costly tapestry from the Low counties. The gardens were filled with statuary and the park with deer. Before the house was a large sheet of water nearly circular; this and the Ch. are all that remain to point out the site. From Lord Tilney it passed to Sir James Tilney Long, whose only daughter inherited this magnificent estate early in the present century. During her minority the mansion was occupied by the exiled Bourbons from France. In 1812 the fair owner married the Hon. William Pole Wellesley, son of the Earl of Mornington, and who if he had lived would have become the head of the House of Wellesley. The house was pulled down to pay his debts in 1822-23, and his wife died soon after from a broken heart.

"A grotto, built at immense expense by the late Countess of Mornington, is now the only remaining monument of this finely-situate estate. A tessellated pavement and other Roman antiquities were found in the park in 1735."—*Kelly*. In the precincts of the park stands Wanstead Ch., a semi-classical structure, built in 1787-90. It contains a large and sumptuous marble monument with re-

cumbent effigy of Sir Josiah Child, Bart., who died 1699. Above is a niche with a statue of him also.

The *Infant Orphan Asylum*, an Elizabethan pile, erected in 1841, stands on the confines of Epping Forest, near the Eagle at Snaresbrook. Here 600 orphans of persons once in prosperity, of either sex, and wherever resident, are maintained and educated, from their infancy until fifteen years of age. The Eagle Inn, at Snaresbrook, is a great resort for Londoners at the E. end on account of its proximity to the forest.

The *Princess Louise Home and National Society for the Protection of Young Girls*, at Woodhouse, Wanstead, is another most admirable institution, in which much good work is being done. Since the establishment of the Home, in 1835, there have been admitted upwards of 1800 girls, of whom over 1000 have been sent to service, and 200 have been restored to their friends. The object of the institution is "to save young girls (not thieves) between eleven and fifteen years old, to maintain and educate them for domestic service."

The *Merchant Seamen's Orphan Asylum* is situated at Snaresbrook, and at New Wanstead are the almshouses belonging to the Weavers' Company, erected here in lieu of those which formerly stood in Potter's Fields and in Old Street Road, London.

The surrounding scenery is rendered eminently picturesque by the remains of the once famous forest of Hainault, where kings and lords and ladies loved to follow the chase "in the brave days of old." Hainault Forest was disafforested in 1851. Here stood the celebrated Fairlop Oak, whose trunk measured 44ft. in girth near the ground, and whose branches an area 800ft. in circumference.

*Fairlop Fair* was for many years held under the spreading branches of this tree, and was a favourite Cockney merry-making. It was held on the first Friday in July, and was almost as celebrated at the E. end of London as the Epping Hunt at Eastertide. The Fairlop Oak stood on an open space of ground, which on this one day in the year was crowded by company of every description from the highest to the lowest.

"Lord, what a group the motley scene discloses!  
False wits, false wives, false virgins, and false spouses."

The brave old oak was blown down in 1820.

Our S.E. course now takes us past the *City of London Cemetery*, covering upwards of 90 acres of land, to *Ilford* (on the Colchester branch of the Great Eastern). The river is navigable to this point for heavy barges. On the W. bank stands Great Ilford, on the E. bank Little Ilford, connected by a bridge.

At Ilford the road and railway both cross the Roding, which is navigable for barges thus far from the Thames, and lower down is known as Barking Creek.

Ilford—*eald-ford*, the “old ford” — has only of late years been made parochial, having formed part of the large parish of Barking. Here is a Hospital for Lepers, founded in the reign of Stephen by Adeliza, Abbess of Barking, long ruled under statutes given by Stratford, Bishop of London, in A.D. 1346. It passed into lay hands at the Reformation, as an asylum for a master, chaplain, and six poor aged men. The chapel, a 15th century building, measures 100ft. by 20ft. The master and owner of the hospital is the Marquis of Salisbury.

Ilford Ch., dedicated to St. Mary, in the E. Eng. style, was built in 1831, and enlarged in 1866. There are several district Churches and many handsome seats in this pleasant neighbourhood.

The Ch. at *Little Ilford*, a small, ancient building, with a wooden turret, is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. It contains several monuments. Manor Park Cemetery, covering an area of 45 acres, is in this parish.

A winding course of 2m. brings us to *Barking*, a settlement of the Saxon *Beorcingas*—where the Roding for a time divides into two channels.

Barking, 8m. from London, on the road to Rainham, and a station on the Southend Railway, is an irregular straggling town, with an old market-house, and a market on Saturdays. Inn, the Bull. The parish Ch., dedicated to St. Margaret, is of various dates, and consists of nave, chancel, S. aisle, two N. aisles, and square embattled towers; it contains some fine monuments. Near it stands what is called the Fire-bell Gate, but which was originally the gate of the outer court of Barking Abbey. The room over the gateway was the chapel of the Holy Rood. It is of the Decor. period; the niches and tracery have been defaced. It is all that remains of one of the most ancient and important Benedictine Convents in the kingdom. It was called an Abbey, and its Abbess was one of four who

held seats in the great Council of the Kingdom. It was founded about A.D. 670, by Erkenwald, the sainted Bishop of London, who also founded Chertsey Abbey. It had many noble and ever-royal Abbesses, both in the Saxon and the Norman times. Ethelburgha, its first Abbess, and several of her successors were canonized; and the Venerable Bede devotes several chapters of his ecclesiastical history to an account of the miracles wrought by and for its first founders and heads. About the year 870 it was destroyed by the Danes, and its nuns murdered. About the middle of the 10th century it was rebuilt by King Edgar, and it soon rose into a splendid and prosperous condition. The queens of England often superintended its administration, and augmented its wealth by liberal endowments. Eleanor, Duchess of Gloucester, retired here, after her husband's murder, in 1397. It shared the common fate of the religious houses in 1539, when it was given by Henry VIII. into lay hands. At that time its revenues were valued at not less than £1084 6s. 2½d. Of the Abbey buildings, which occupied an extensive area, only the square embattled gateway mentioned above now remains. On the southern front is a mutilated carving of the Crucifixion.

Half a mile N. of the Ch., at Uphall, are traceable the foundations of a Roman camp, or possibly of a Roman city; they cover an area of nearly fifty acres, and are plainly discernible. A spring which is said to have flowed here in the old Roman times still bubbles up as of old.

*Eastbury House*, 1m. E. of Barking, is a manor house of the late Tudor style, square in plan, built of fine red brick, with semi-Gothic mullioned windows, and fine stacks of tall chimneys. It is said, but probably in error, that Lord Mounteagle received here the letter that led to the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot.

Barking, as a fishing-town, enjoys a considerable amount of prosperity. Its flotilla includes 200 to 250 smacks, of from forty to fifty tons burthen, each carrying eight or ten men and boys, and constructed with wells for the purpose of preserving the fish alive—the turbot, soles, and cod caught on the Scottish and Dutch coasts. Market-gardening is another principal resource of the inhabitants of Barking. The river, or creek, is navigable up to the town for vessels of 800 or 400 tons, and as far as Ilford for barques of 80 tons.

The North London Main Drainage Sewer passes through the marsh lands on the banks of the Roding, and the reservoir, or main outfall, is constructed on lands in Barking parish. In Barking Creek terminates the course of the river Roding.

At *East Ham*, 1m. S.W., is a Norman Ch. with mural paintings and several brasses. At *Greenstreet* there is an old building, now a Catholic Reformatory, in which Anne Boleyn is said to have lived.

#### THE CHELMER.

[*Main Points*: Thaxted, Great and Little Easton, Dunmow, Barnston, Great and Little Waltham, Chelmsford, Great and Little Baddow, Boreham, Ulting, Maldon.]

The *Chelmer* rises above the village of Thaxted, and flows southward to Great Easton, where it turns towards the east, and runs S.E. to Dunmow; S.S.E. by Felstead and Waltham to Chelmsford; E. to Baddow, and to the Blackwater, near Maldon. In its career it receives the Can, and many smaller tributaries.

*Thaxted* is an old and lethargic town, picturesquely situated, possessing some quaint timbered houses, and boasting a very noble and spacious Ch. It is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and is a 14th century building, with stout buttresses, richly-decorated windows, a finely-sculptured porch, an embattled tower, and octagonal spire, rising to a height of 181ft. The length of the building is 183ft., and the breadth 87ft. The principal founders of this stately and superb pile were Lady Elizabeth de Clare; her son William de Burgh, Earl of Ulster; Lionel, Duke of Clarence; and Edmund, the last Earl of March. Edward IV. is said to have built the porch. The ceiling is grotesquely carved; the pulpit and font are curiously carved. Inns, the King's Head and Star.

*Horham Hall*, though considerably modernized, exhibits many interesting details of the ancient castellated mansion. It was built by Sir John Cutts, who died in 1520; and it was the residence of the Princess Elizabeth during the reign of Queen Mary, and it was subsequently visited by her after she became queen.

At *Tilty* a Cistercian Abbey was founded in 1133 by Maurice FitzGeoffrey, of which some remains are extant.

The present Ch., dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, is Decor. in style; it formed the chancel of the Abbey Ch.

*Great Easton* clusters on a hill of gravel, on the E. side of the Chelmer. The Ch., built of flint, is E. Eng., and is dedicated to St. John.

*Little Easton* lies to the E. of the finely-wooded demesne, Easton Park, the seat of Miss Maynard, granddaughter and heiress of Henry, fourth and last Viscount Maynard, now Lady Brooke. The mansion (*Easton Lodge*) was chiefly erected in 1595, and preserves the distinguishing Elizabethan features. A great portion of the building was destroyed by fire in 1847, but it was rebuilt and restored at a cost of £10,000. Easton Ch. is an ancient and conspicuous structure, with a chapel on the S. side of the chancel, containing the tombs and memorials of the Maynards; especially of Sir Henry Maynard, Secretary to Lord Burleigh, died 1610, and William, Lord Maynard, died 1698. In the Bouchier Chapel is a fine and rich altar tomb of grey marble to Isabella of York, wife of Henry Bouchier, Earl of Essex, inlaid with brass effigies of herself and her husband. The large E. window is filled with stained glass, in memory of Viscount Maynard, who died 1865.

On the W. bank of the river stands the small market-town of *Great Dunmow*, on a gravelly hill, and in the centre of a fertile district. It mainly consists of two well-paved and well-lighted streets. Numerous Roman remains have been exhumed here, and some antiquaries believe it to be the *Cæsaromagus* mentioned in the itinerary of Antoninus. Near this town ran the old Roman road between Colchester and Verulamium (St. Albans). The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, is a large and handsome Perp. building, situated at Church End, on a well-wooded slope. The E. window is a fine specimen of decoration. The nave and isles were restored in 1873, under the direction of the late Mr. G. E. Street. The Town Hall is a plain, unornamented building, after the fashion of town halls in quiet out-of-the-world places. The Literary and Scientific Institution has a library of upwards of 1000 volumes. The principal inns are the Saracen's Head and the Chequers.

Across the river 2m. E.S.E. lies

*Little Dunmow*, where an Augustinian Priory was founded in 1104 by Lady Inga, sister of Ralph Baynard,

the Norman lord of the manor. The Priory Ch. was a stately pile, as may be inferred from its chancel, now converted into the parish Ch. It is dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, and its leading features are Decor. The memorials are interesting. A tomb under an arch in the S. wall is appropriated to the foundress; a mutilated effigy commemorates Walter Fitzwalter, died 1198; and a beautiful figure, in alabaster, his daughter Matilda, poisoned, it is said, for her resistance to King John.

One of the Fitzwalters is supposed to have originated the custom of giving a *fitch of bacon* to any married couple who, for a twelvemonth and a day, shall have lived in perfect cordiality. In the course of half a dozen centuries seven couples only have taken the prescribed oath and received the savoury prize. The last occasion was in 1763; but an attempt was made a few years ago to revive the custom under the auspices of the late Mr. W. Harrison Ainsworth, the novelist. It was not successful. The good taste of the present day revolts against so absurd a celebration of conjugal fidelity.

The oath taken by the claimants ran as follows:

“ You shall swear by custom of confession,  
That you ne’er made nuptial transgression;  
Nor since you were married man and wife,  
By household brawls or contentious strife,  
Or otherwise at bed or at board,  
Offended each other in deed or in word;  
Or since the parish clerk said Amen,  
Wished yourselves unmarried again;  
Or in a twelvemonth and a day,  
Repented not in thought any way;  
But continued true in thought and desire,  
As when you joined hands in holy quire.  
If to these conditions without all fear,  
Of your own accord you will freely swear,  
A whole *gammon of bacon* you shall receive,  
And bear it hence with love and good leave;  
For this is our custom at Dunmow well known;  
Tho’ the pleasure be ours, the bacon’s your own.”

The fortunate couple were afterwards made the objects of a popular ovation, and the day was devoted to revel-making and festivity.

*Pleshey*, 7m. S.E. from Dunmow, has, in the present Ch. (dedicated to the Holy Trinity), the remains of a large cruciform double-aisled edifice, which formerly belonged

jointly to the parish and to a college of priests, founded here by Thomas of Woodstock at the end of the 14th century. Of several marble tombs of the family of the founder which enriched the chancel, only three or four slabs stripped of their brasses now remain.

Of the once royal castle of Pleshey little or nothing survives except a huge mound, several feet in height, which formerly was crowned by a keep. Its sides are thickly covered with trees, mostly ashes and beeches, and the bridge of brick, of one pointed arch, which formed the entrance, still spans the moat now dry. Its walls are levelled with the ground, and the terraces and pleasaunces once trod by courtly feet are now green turf.

"In the vicinity of the entrenchment have been found several Roman bricks and other relics, strongly corroborative of the supposition that the castle was erected by the Romans; the keep (mound) is, however, indisputably of Norman origin, and its erection is, with some appearance of probability, ascribed to William, second son of Geoffrey de Magnaville, who procured a licence for fortifying his castle at Pleshey from Henry II., and was here married to Hawise, daughter and heiress of the Earl of Albemarle, in the year 1180."—*Cook's Topography*.

*Felstead* is seated on the N.E. acclivity of the Chelmer, near its confluence with a tributary. The handsome Edwardian Ch. contains a superb monument to Richard, Lord Rich, died 1567, the founder of the Free Grammar School and Almshouse (or Hospital). The Grammar School was remodelled in 1876.

The south-easterly course of our pleasant river next brings us in succession to Barnston, W.; Little Leighs, E.; Great Waltham, W., and Little Waltham, E., connected by a rural bridge; Broomfield, W., and Springfield, E.

*Barnston* is situated in a well-watered and lightly-wooded country; its Ch. has Norman portions, but is mainly E. Eng. in style.

*Great Waltham* lies, as its name — *weald-ham* — indicates, amongst shady groves and forest lands, surrounded with some good old English parks. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary and St. Lawrence, is in the Trans. Norm. style, with Perp. additions. Two of the windows are enriched with delicate tracery. Part of the rood-loft remains. The walls are covered with curious frescoes. The Ch. was restored in 1863, and the east window has



since been filled with stained glass, as a memorial of the late Mr. Tufnell, of Langleys, in this parish.

*Langleys*, the seat of J. Jolliffe Tufnell, Esq., is a large mansion of red brick with stone dressings, situated on rising ground, overlooking the Chelmer, in the midst of an extensive park well stocked with deer. The estate passed to the family of the present owner by purchase from the Everards early in the last century. It is said that the last of the Everards staked this estate on a throw of the dice and lost it!

The traveller crosses the Chelmer to

*Little Waltham*, where there is a quaint and interesting semi-Norman Ch., dedicated to St. Martin. The embattled tower at the W. end is of later date; the porch is Perp. Here are two slabs with brasses, one of which is dated 1447.

*Broomfield* is a pleasant, fertile village, grouped about a green. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary, is remarkable for its massive round tower and wooden spire. In some of the windows are fragments of stained glass. The edifice has been considerably enlarged and restored.

*Rozwell*, situated on the Can, a feeder of the Chelmer, is 4½ m. W. from Chelmsford. In this parish is Skreens, for the last two centuries the seat of the Bramston family, many of whom have represented the county in Parliament. In the Ch., which is dedicated to St. Michael, is a fine marble monument with inscription to Sir John Bramston, Chief Justice, died 1654. The edifice was restored and enlarged in 1854.

*Writtle Ch.*, dedicated to All Saints, consists of chancel, nave with clerestory, aisles, and a large square tower; it is partly E. Eng. and partly Perp. In the chancel there is a white mural monument, with bust, to Sir John Comyns, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, author of "A Digest of the Laws of England." There are also several interesting brasses.

*Springfield* is connected with the town of Chelmsford by two bridges, which cross two branches of the Chelmer. The Ch., dedicated to All Saints, consists of Decor. chancel and Perp. nave, and an embattled tower, on which is the inscription, "Prayse God for all the good Benefactors, 1586." There are several stained-glass windows. The vestry hall was built in 1873. The county gaol, which is situated here, was built about 1820, and covers an area of

about five acres. The front is about 420 feet long. The interior contains accommodation for 500 prisoners.

Springfield has been claimed, but on very shadowy grounds, as the original of Goldsmith's deserted village, "Sweet Auburn."

Traversing the suburb of Springfield we enter, at the confluence of the Chelmer with the Can, the county town of Essex, *Chelmsford* (i.e., *Chelmer's ford*), 29m. N.E. of London, and 21m., S.W. of Colchester.

*Chelmsford* (pop. 11,965) consists of three divisions, Chelmsford, Moulsham, and Springfield, and it is a handsome, busy, well-paved, well-lighted, and orderly town, containing some good houses and extensive shops. The principal inns are the Black Boy and the Saracen's Head. It is one of the chief stations on the Great Eastern Railway, opened in 1843, and the western part of the town and suburbs is traversed by a viaduct of eighteen brick arches, each 30ft. in span and 45ft. in height. A neat iron bridge crosses the Can, and a substantial stone one, built in 1787. The Chelmer is also spanned by a bridge of brick. Chelmsford is the capital of the county, and a polling-place for the western division. A curious custom prevailed here, at every county election, of celebrating a mock election upon a small island, called Mesopotamia, the successful candidates being duly chaired and—ducked. Though not now a borough, Chelmsford sent four members to a Council held at Westminster in 11 Edward III. At the present time it is the only county town in England, except Oakham, which is not a borough. The Chelmer is navigable up to this town, having been improved by a series of locks and artificial cuttings in 1793–7, under the auspices of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation Company. A weekly market and three annual fairs contribute to the prosperity of this town. The cattle fairs are largely attended.

In a survey of the parish taken for the Mildmays, the then lords of the manor, in 1591, are these particulars :

"Chelmersforde is one ancient goodly manor, scituate in the heart of the county, in good and wholesom air, conveniently and well housed, and well built for timber and tile. The chief manor house was in the time of Edward the Thirde, brent and wasted with fire; and before that it seemed to have been some ancient barony. Within this manor is situate the town Chelmesford, sometimes

written the Burrowe of Chelmesforde, well situated with more than 300 habitations, divers of them seemly for gentlemen, many fair inns, and the residue of the same habitations for victuallers and artificers of city-like buildings. This town is called the shire town, not only by the statute of eleventh of Henry the Seventh, for the custody of weights and measures, but so reputed and taken long time before by the keeping of all assizes and sessions of the peace, &c."

Though there may have been a Saxon settlement here at an early period, it could not have attained to any considerable proportions, for the London road anciently passed through Writtle, and was not directed through Chelmsford until the reign of Henry I., when Maurice, Bishop of London, built the first bridge over the Can. It does not appear to have participated in any of the great events of English history. In Queen Mary's reign it contributed several victims to the stake. In 1645 the fires were lighted for a different purpose—no less than the punishment of witchcraft.

The *Corn Exchange*, in Tindal Square, was built in 1857 from the designs of Mr. Frederic Chancellor. It is in the Italian style, and contains a large corn-hall, 100ft. by 45ft., covered with a glass roof, with offices on either side, auction and committee rooms, and gallery.

At the top of the High Street, very near the parish Ch., stands the Shire Hall, where the assizes are held. It is a somewhat heavy, classical structure, and was erected in 1792 from designs by Mr. J. Jackson. It contains two assize courts, a ball-room, &c. About 1879 a large number of county records of the reign of Henry VIII. and Queen Mary were discovered in the upper room in the Shire Hall. The records comprise, *inter alia*, rolls of deeds of conveyance, sessions rolls, mostly of the 16th and 17th centuries, papers relating to the Protestant and Roman Catholic Nonconformists and their punishments, copies of prosecutions for non-attendance at the parish churches, documents relating to the making and repairing of roads and bridges, the punishment of witchcraft, &c. There are also among the contents of the box several letters from the Privy Council, written or signed by Lord Burleigh; Lord Howard of Effingham; Monk, Duke of Albemarle; Lord Lauderdale, the Earl of Northumberland, Lord Hunsdon, &c., and a certificate bearing the signature of

Oliver Cromwell. Mr. Charles Sharman, Under Sheriff of the county, has devoted much time to assorting, cleaning, and arranging the documents, and his rough notes on those referring to Queen Mary's reign have been already printed, and arrangements have been entered into with the view of publishing the remainder.

Near the Shire Hall, fronting the market-place, is a conduit, handsomely sculptured in the Italian style, and surmounted by a figure of a Naiad. On its sides, above the pipe where the water issues, are the following inscriptions: "*Benignus Benignis*"—Bountiful to the Bounteous. "*Nec parcus parcis*"—Liberal to the Covetous. "*Nec diminutus largiendo*"—Not diminished by bestowing. "*Sic charitas a Deo fonte*"—Thus charity flows from God its source. When the conduit was first erected is not known; but it was rebuilt early in the present century, and it bears the name of Chief Justice Sir Nicholas Tindal, who was a native of this town.

On the site of *The Friars* anciently stood a Dominican Priory, which, in the 14th century, sheltered Thomas Langford, the author of some curious treatises.

The Ch. is dedicated to St. Mary. The body is modern, though erected as nearly as possible on the old lines in place of the former Ch., which fell down in January, 1800. At the W. end is a square flint tower, with pinnacles and spire. When the original Ch. was founded is uncertain; but, from an inscription which was placed on the S. side of the centre aisle, it appears to have been repaired by subscription in the year 1424; in the Catholic times it contained four guilds, or chantries. The burial-place of the Mildmays is on the N. of the chancel: Benjamin, Earl Fitzwalter, and Frederica, his Countess, daughter to the Duke of Schomberg, are here interred. In rebuilding the body of the Ch. the ancient character of its architecture has been preserved; but the interior is "elegantly ornamented in a modern style." The new building was opened for Divine service in September, 1808. The interior was greatly altered in 1857 and 1873; and in 1878 the chancel was rebuilt. Many of the windows are filled with stained glass.

There are several modern churches, denominational and Roman Catholic chapels. The Free Grammar School was founded in 1552 by Edward VI., on the petition of members of the Petre, Mildmay, and Tyrell families. The school was rebuilt in 1782.

Among the natives of Chelmsford was Philemon Holland, M.D., the first who translated Camden's "Britannia" into English. He practised for many years as a physician at Coventry, and translated also Livy, Pliny, Suetonius, and other classical authors.

Hylands, near Chelmsford (seat of A. Pryor, Esq.), has long been one of the most celebrated places in England for its gardens and evergreens.

The bridge over the Chelmer, erected by Bishop Maurice, being decayed, a new bridge of one arch was built in its place in 1787 by Mr. Johnson; this unites Chelmsford with *Moulsham*. Near the bridge stands the old county gaol, now used for the accommodation of the militia.

The Mildmays—Lords Fitzwalter—formerly owned Moulsham Hall, a fine country seat on the road from Chelmsford to Baddow; but it was pulled down early in the present century. It is said to have been "accounted the greatest esquire's building within the county," but this is an exaggeration.

In Moulsham, near the river, stood a small Dominican Priory, erroneously\* ascribed to Malcolm, king of Scotland. Thomas Langford, who compiled a Chronicle from the Creation to his own times, was a friar here in the reign of Edward II. In Moulsham Street are some almshouses founded by the Mildmays. St. John's Ch., in Moulsham, is a brick edifice in the E. Eng. style; it was built in 1841.

About 3m. from Chelmsford the river flowing past Great and Little Baddow—which will be described hereafter—flows eastward to *Boreham*.

*Boreham* (8½m. N.E. from Chelmsford) has an ancient Ch., dedicated to St. Andrew, consisting of chancel, nave, and a central square tower of Norman architecture. In the Sussex Chapel are the monuments of the Radcliffes, Earls of Sussex. In the churchyard is a heavy and unsightly structure, built as a mausoleum by a Lord Waltham in the last century.

*Boreham House* (J. L. Tufnell-Tyrell, Esq.) is situated in an extensive park, well stocked with deer, and the mansion is approached by two avenues of trees, with a long lake or "canal" between them.

*New Hall*, in this parish, now an educational convent

\* See Bishop Tanner's "Notitia."

of religious ladies of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, who took refuge here on the breaking out of the first French Revolution, was formerly the seat of Lord Waltham, an Irish peer. Originally it was built as a royal palace, and the initials of Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn are sculptured with love-knots in the great hall, now used as a chapel. New Hall was at one time the seat of Monk, Duke of Albemarle, and, previously, of the Duke of Buckingham. It is a late Tudor edifice built of red brick with stone facings. Henry VIII. called it Beaulieu, but the name was never adopted by the natives of Essex.

The Chelmer next flows on to *Ulting*. The Ch., dedicated to All Saints, was formerly a small E. Eng. edifice of stone, with a wooden turret and spire; but it was restored and enlarged in 1878.

The river passes thence in a S.E. direction to Maldon, where it joins the estuary of the Blackwater.

#### THE COAST.

[*Main Points* : Harwich, Horsey Island, The Naze, Walton, Frinton, Brightling, Mersey, St. Peter's Chapel, Foulness, Great Wakering, Shoeburyness.]

At the extreme N.E. point of the county, and on the S. shore of the broad estuary of the Stour—Orwell Haven—stands the town of

*Harwich* (pop. 6079). It is 72m. from London, and 19m. from Colchester, and it returns one member to Parliament. It derives its name from *Here*, an army, and *wich*, a castle or fortified place.

Harwich is said to have risen into note and importance through the ruin of Orwell by the action of the sea. The traces of this drowned city are said to be still visible at low water five miles from the shore, at a spot now indicated by the West Rocks. The place was probably used as a stronghold in the British times, and afterwards as a station by the Romans. Many coins, tessellated pavements, and other proofs of their occupation have been found here; in fact, traces of a Roman military settlement are visible beyond the town towards Beaconhill field. It afterwards became a Saxon village, but the earliest authentic historical incident connected with it was the battle at the mouths of the Orwell and the Stour between King Alfred's fleet and sixteen Danish ships in 884. The

victory was with the Saxons. That Harwich was not very important in the Saxon times is clear from the fact that it has not been till quite recent times a separate parish, but only a chapelry in that of Dovercourt. It first rose into importance in the reign of Edward II., who granted it a charter in 1318. Eight years later Isabel, his queen, landed here with nobles and knights and 2700 men in open war against him. Edward III. sailed from hence in 1340, and, learning that the French fleet was near Sluys, engaged it with an inferior force and won a glorious triumph. It was visited by Henry VIII. in 1543, by Queen Elizabeth in 1561, who lodged several days at a house in the High Street. The charter of Edward II., constituting Harwich a borough and market-town, was renewed by James I. Off this part of the coast took place the great sea fight of June, 1666, between the English and Dutch. Harwich was brought into note in the last century as the landing-place of our royal family on their way between Hanover and England. Queen Charlotte landed here Sept. 7, 1761, on her route to London to marry George III. (then Prince of Wales). Of late years the port has thriven rapidly, as the point of communication with the principal cities on the Dutch coast. There is a large and spacious harbour, with good anchorage; and half a century ago it was a favourite seaside watering-place with the chief Essex families.

Very recently the improvement of the Great Eastern Railway and the appointment of fast steamers has revived the trade and commerce of the town.

The Ch. of St. Nicholas, built in 1821, occupies the site of a more ancient sanctuary.

The principal hotels at Harwich are the Pier, the Great Eastern, and Three Cups.

The *harbour* is formed by the estuary of the Stour and the Orwell. Landguard Fort, on the Suffolk side, and a smaller stronghold above Harwich, completely command the channel. Of late years it has been much improved as a harbour of refuge, and the pier has been extended and fortified. Vessels are guided in their egress and ingress by two lighthouses—the Low, near the seabeach; and the High, at the S.W. entrance to the town, an octagonal tower, 95ft. high, crowned by a graceful lantern. In 1863 an Act was passed for the improvement of the harbour, which is now under a Conservancy Board.

In Cook's "Topography of Essex" (1825) it is stated that many of the Harwich smacks are engaged in the North Sea fishery. He estimates them at 3000 tons and 500 hands. There are now (1882) 130 vessels belonging to the port of Harwich, with an aggregate tonnage of 13,680 tons. Ship-building is briskly carried on, and owing to the traffic between London and the continent, the town wears an air of business and prosperity.

*Dovercourt*, a rapidly rising watering-place, closely adjoins Harwich (of which it is the mother parish), and has a sea-wall extending for over two miles. All Saint's Ch. is a composite structure, with an embattled tower, of venerable antiquity. In olden times Dovercourt was famous for the possession of a miraculous cross or *rood*, which was placed in the Ch., and was much resorted to by pilgrims and visitors. It was bestowed by Alberic de Vere, Earl of Oxford, on Colne Priory, *temp.* William Rufus. *Dover*, or *Duver*, is said to mean land once overflowed by the sea. Of the ancient castle, the walls and their four gates and three posterns, there are no remains extant. Of late years lighthouses, an institute and reading-room, and an assembly-room have been built here; as also has a station on the Great Eastern Railway. The Spa House, built over a chalybeate spring, was erected in 1853; it contains a pump-room, saloon, library, &c. The hotels are the Cliff, Phoenix, Queen's Head, and Victoria.

At *Wix*, or *Wickes*, near Dovercourt, was a small Benedictine convent of nuns. It was founded in the reign of Henry I.; but was given by the Pope to Cardinal Wolsey to help in founding his intended college at Ipswich. It was seized, however, by Henry VIII., who gave or sold it into lay hands.

Continuing our imaginary voyage along the low and marshy shore, which presents a dull expanse of barren level, only diversified by pools of salt water and heaps of rotting seaweed, we reach the entrance of one of the bays or inlets that so freely indent the E. coast. About its centre, and opposite Holme Island—a small isolated plot of verdure that in its turn is opposite a favourite resort of the sea-fowl, named Horsey Island—stands the village of *Beaumont-cum-Moze*. Its houses are scattered about the slope of a creek called Hainford Water, which is navigable for vessels of 70 tons as high as Beaumont



Bridge. The Ch. stands on an ascent above the village ; it is a small and antique building, repaired in 1847.

Keeping closely within shore we reach another little creek, burrowing into the green meadow-land, with another scattered village at its head. This is *Kirby-le-Soken*. Its Ch., dedicated to St. Michael, is modern and poor, except the tower and part of the chancel ; the fabric was restored in 1870-73.

Rounding *Horse Island* (*Horsa-ey*), a grazing-ground, measuring 2m. in length by 1m. in breadth, and stretching into the open sea, we find ourselves within the shadow of the promontory of the *Naze* (or *Ness*), abruptly projecting its crumbling walls, rich in memorials of the antediluvian world, into the "yeasty waves." *Ness*, or *Naze*, is a frequent termination on this coast ; it signifies a promontory (Lat. *nasus*, the nose). The entire promontory forms a peninsula of 3m. in length and 1m. in breadth, gradually declining in height as it approaches the mainland. On its loftiest point stands a brick tower, 80ft. high, built by the Trinity House as a landmark for shipping, and commanding a varied and delightful prospect of cliff and sea, and village-spire, and cattle-dotted pasturage. Great quantities of copperas are found upon the beach. There are decoys, after the Norfolk and Suffolk type, in one or two places on the coast ; as at *Goldhanger*, near *Maldon*, and in *Mersea Island*.

*Walton-on-the-Naze* is situated at the southern extremity of the peninsula, and from the admirable extent of its smooth sandy shore has obtained a fashionable reputation as a seaside resort and bathing-place. Facing the sea is a terrace of handsome houses, enjoying that desideratum of cockneys "a fine sea view ;" and a pleasant promenade is afforded by the wooden pier or jetty, erected in 1880, and extending 380ft. into the sea. There is also another pier, of more recent erection, upwards of 800ft. long. The principal hotels are the *Clifton*, the *Albion*, *Portobello*, and *Dorling's*. The cliffs here are of moderate elevation, but frequent landslips are effected by the encroachments of the restless waters. They have advanced inland, for instance, several hundred feet beyond the site of the ancient Ch. In fact, both the church and churchyard have been carried out to the sea within the memory of man. Of the modern sanctuary which has superseded it little can be said.

The three parishes of *Thorpe, Kirby, and Walton-on-Naze* form together the Liberty of the Sokens—a term derived from the Anglo-Saxon *soc*, or *sok*—a peculiar jurisdiction. In the middle ages this jurisdiction belonged to St. Paul's Ch., London, but it was seized at the Reformation by Henry VIII. The Lord of the Sokens still appoints a coroner for the district. In the Ch. of *Thorpe-le-Soken* is buried Kitty Canham, who was attended to her grave by two rival husbands, the Rev. Mr. Gough, vicar of the parish, and Lord Dalmeny. She died in 1752.

*Frinton*, 2½m., is the next point at which we touch. The sea is annually gnawing its way into the friable and incoherent cliffs, and the village is reduced to a cluster of cottages and two or three small farms. A great portion of the old Ch. was destroyed by a storm in 1703. It is a small building, profusely covered with ivy.

*Clacton-on-Sea*, 1m. S. from the village of Great Clacton, is a watering-place which has only recently sprung into existence. It is 18m. from Colchester on the Tendring branch of the Great Eastern Railway. The principal hotels are the Osborne and the Royal. During the summer season steamboats touch at the pier on their way to and from London and Ipswich. The place already contains many villas and terraces, and the beach is admirably adapted for sea-bathing. A lifeboat, named the *Albert Edward*, presented by the Freemasons, is placed here. St. Paul's Ch., built in 1875 of concrete, consists of nave and apsidal chancel. The Wesleyans have a large chapel.

Let us glide swiftly past the marshes and reach *St. Osyth Point*. It forms the E. extremity of the estuary of the Colne, and is protected by a fort, now occupied as a coastguard station. A creek runs between it and the marshes, and above the marshes the land rises rapidly to the village of *St. Osyth*, which is grouped upon two green hills, with a small brook between them, and looks out pleasantly over the valley of the Colne. *St. Osyth* was the daughter of Redwald, or Frewald, king of East Anglia, who founded here a nunnery and Ch. The former was plundered and destroyed by Hinguar and Hubba and their yellow-haired Danes; and *St. Osyth* was beheaded by an adjacent fountain. About 1118, Richard de Belmeis, Bishop of London, on the supposed site of

the nunnery, established an Augustine Priory for a prior and eighteen brethren, which thrived amazingly until Henry VIII. stretched forth his destroying hand.

Allan Butler, in his "Lives of the Saints," gives the following particulars of the foundation of this priory: "St. Osyth was born at Quarendon, Bucks, and was daughter of Frewald, a Mercian prince, and niece to Editha, to whom belonged the town and manor of Aylesbury, where she was brought up with her pious aunt. Osyth was married young to a king of the East Angles; but the same day obtained his consent to live always a virgin. That king confirmed her in her religious purpose, and bestowed on her the manor of Chick, in which she built a monastery. She had governed this house with great sanctity, when she was crowned with martyrdom in the inroads of Hinguar and Hubba, the barbarous Danish leaders, being beheaded for her constancy in her faith and virtue, about the year 870. For fear of the Danish pirates, her body, after some time, was removed to Aylesbury, where it remained forty-six years, after which it was brought back to Chick, or Chich, in Essex, near Colchester, which place was for some time called St. Osyth's, as Camden takes notice. A great abbey of regular canons was created here, under her invocation, which continued to the Dissolution, famous for its store of relics, and honoured with many miracles."

A local tradition asserts that on one night in each year St. Osyth revisits the scene of her former abode, walking with her head under her arm; and it is this legend which probably gave rise to the sign of the "Good Woman" at Widford, near Chelmsford.

After the Dissolution, the Priory was granted to Thomas, Lord Cromwell, on whose attainder it of course reverted to the Crown. It was, however, conferred by Edward VI. on Sir Thomas D'Arcy, who was shortly after created Lord D'Arcy of Chiche. His lordship, with others of the D'Arcy family, lies buried in the chancel of St. Osyth Ch., where there is a handsome monument to their memory. Queen Elizabeth visited St. Osyth in a Progress 1579, and was entertained by Lord D'Arcy. George III. also, on the occasion of his inspecting the camp at Colchester, paid at least one visit to St. Osyth, as the guest of the Earl of Rochford.

The remains of St. Osyth's Priory consist of a large

gateway of stone, with flint dressings, having two towers and two posterns; it is a very imposing structure, three stories in height, and embattled. This gateway opens into a spacious quadrangle, on the S. and W. sides of which are stables and offices of more than ordinary extent, and bearing signs of great antiquity. On the N. side stands the modern mansion, in the galleries and sitting-rooms of which were formerly some fine paintings of our early Hanoverian kings and princes. On the E. side of the quadrangle are some ancient and irregular domestic buildings, probably erected by the D'Arcys, but which are being rapidly modernized; and in the garden, about 50 yards, stand the ruined remains of the ancient conventual buildings, mostly of the 13th century; and among the ivy-grown ruins is a pier, bearing a modern Latin inscription, expressive of the ancient magnificence of the place.

St. Osyth's Priory has often been seized upon by strolling artists, and its mouldering walls, picturesque in their ruin and decay, have often been made a theme for poetical effusions. Crabbe's poem, "The Ancient Mansion," contains the following well-known lines:

"Come, lead me, lassie, to the shade  
Where willows grow beside the brook;  
How well I know the sound it made,  
When dashing o'er the stony rill  
It murmured to St. Osyth mill."

The Priory is now the seat of Sir J. H. Johnson. The Ch., dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is an ancient edifice, consisting of a chancel, nave and aisles, and an embattled tower. This Ch. is specially remarkable for the shape of communion-table rails, which are in the form of a horse-shoe, and are known as "the Fold." It is also rich in monuments and tombs, erected by the noble families of D'Arcy, Savage, and Nassau, who successively inherited St. Osyth's Priory. The Ch. is about to be restored, strictly on the old lines.

About half a mile from the Priory stands St. Clare Hall, now a highly picturesque farmhouse, surrounded by a moat. Tradition asserts that a subterranean passage exists from this house to the Priory. St. Clare Hall was formerly a religious establishment dedicated to St. Clare.

Crossing the mouth of the Colne, we face the green

shores of *Mersea Island*. Well wooded and richly undulating, and rising with a bold abrupt coast from the restless waters of the North Sea, it presents many a charming bit for the sketcher's pencil. Its shape is oval. In length it extends 5m., and varies in breadth from 2m. to 8m. The creek which divides it from the mainland is called the *Pyefleet*, and abounds in excellent oysters. A raised causeway, called the *Strode*, traverses this creek, and is passable at low water. The higher ground affords good arable and pasture land, but the marshes and saltings are usually inundated at high tide. Roman relics have been discovered here. The *tumuli* on the island appear to belong to the Brito-Roman period; and a hill in the road hence to Colchester still bears the name of Roman Hill. It was a favourite asylum of the Norse sea-rovers, and Alfred the Great, according to tradition, besieged and captured a large body of them here in 894.

There are on the island two villages, named from their respective situations, *East* and *West Mersea*. East Mersea Ch. (St. Edmund) is an E. Eng. building with a Perp. embattled tower. West Mersea Ch. (St. Peter and St. Paul) is of the same age and style.

"Adjoining West Mersea churchyard is the site of an ancient Roman settlement, said to have been the residence of the 'Count of the Saxon shore.' In digging graves the sexton frequently meets with the remains of a tessellated pavement, which Dr. Stukeley found to have enclosed a square, the side of which is about 80 yards in length; this probably formed a part of an ancient temple dedicated to the goddess Vesta."—*Kelly*.

"Near the E. end of West Mersea Ch. was a priory, which seems to have been founded previous to the Conquest, for Ethelfreda in 962 bequeathed lands to St. Peter's Ch. (Cypcan) at Mersea."—*Cook's Topography*.

We now arrive at the estuary of the Blackwater, off whose entrance lie the shoal-banks of the Eagles and the Knowl. The shores trend away inland to Maldon. At its extreme point lie the few remains of the old parish Ch. of *Bradwell St. Peter ad Mare*, now embodied in a grey old barn. The present Ch. is situated about 2m. inland, was rebuilt in 1706, and has a large brick tower, forming a conspicuous landmark. Bradwell, according to Camden, is the Roman Othona, and one of the fortresses under the command of the *Comes Saxonici Lit-*

*toris*. The Saxons called it *Thancester*. A small creek runs up to a point near St. Lawrence.

Bradwell Lodge, the seat of the eccentric Rev. Sir Henry Bate Dudley, was in this neighbourhood. It was built about 1784, and had upon the summit an observatory, ornamented with Ionic columns, ingeniously contrived to form the chimneys of the whole edifice.

For many miles we survey a low, marshy coast, protected by a shoaly and dangerous sea. Then we come to the mouth of the river Crouch, indicated by the Ray and the Bull Beacons; and to *Foulness Island*, separated from the mainland by the winding channel of the river Broomhill. In Foulness Island, in 1801, Lord Winchelsea's tenants reclaimed 830 acres from the sea, on condition of having the land rent free for 21 years. The visitor will naturally feel the dreariness of this breadth of grassy aguish level. In the centre stands a plain and desolate-looking Ch., erected in 1850, on the site of a chapel founded in the 12th century. There are numerous salt-pans on the coast, and wild fowl abound here.

The coast-line here slants sharply away to the S.W., and brings us to *New England Island*, and *Havengore Island*, within which lie the Potton Islands, separated from each other by briny creeks, protected from the waters by embankments, well drained, and affording a rich pasturage for cattle. So we continue to the S.W. until we reach *Shoeburyness*, the extreme boundary on the Essex side of the Thames estuary. It has of late years grown familiar to the English public as the locality of the experiments ordered by Government relative to the range of new artillery, and the relative strength of iron-cased targets. It is a low, dreary level of marsh and waste, with a small coastguard station, and some rude huts for the accommodation of scientific visitors, and the officials who conduct the Shoeburyness experiments.

*South Shoebury* is a small, gloomy-looking village, where the Danes formerly landed and built a fort, or castle (894). Tradition speaks of the existence here of a large fortified city now buried in the Maplin sands; but tradition in this instance may be wisely discredited. "Here, after the defeat at Bâmfild, by Alfred, the Danes, as we are informed, threw up considerable fortifications, of which several remains can still be traced. Here have also been found many urns apparently of

Roman manufacture."—*Cook's Topography*. The Ch., dedicated to St. Andrew, is ancient, with a flint tower and spire, and a curious E. Eng. chancel arch. The Ch. at *North Shoebury* dates from the 14th century. The villages of *Great* and *Little Wakering* lie to the N. The former is a large village, agreeably situated on rising ground, which is highly cultivated; the latter is a much smaller parish, with a little Ch. of great antiquity, built, or repaired, by Bishop Wakering. In the island-creeks are numerous "oyster-layings," and mussels and winkles are largely caught off the coast.

Here our exploration of the Essex shore must terminate.

## RAILWAYS.

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(1.) *Great Eastern : Main Line* to Cambridge, leaving the county at Ickleton, beyond Chesterford.

### BRANCHES.

- 1a. From *Stratford*, *viâ* Chelmsford and Colchester, to *Manningtree*.
- 2a. From *Stratford* to *Tilbury* and *Southend*.
- 3a. From *Stratford* to *Loughton*.
- 4a. To *Walthamstow* and *Chingford*, *via* Clapton.
- 5a. *Witham* to *Braintree* and *Bishop's Stortford*.
- 6a. *Colchester* to *Walton-on-the-Naze*.

### SUB-BRANCHES.

- 1b. *Witham* to *Maldon*.
- 2b. *Marks Tey* to *Sudbury*.
- 3b. *Manningtree* to *Harwich*.
- 4b. *Wivenhoe* to *Brightlingsea*.
- 5b. *Kirby Street* to *Olacton-on-Sea*.

(1.) *Great Eastern Railway : Main Line* to Cambridge, leaving the county at Ickleton, beyond Chesterford.

\* \* \* The Eastern Counties, Eastern Union, East-Anglian, and their subsidiary lines, were united under the general name of the Great Eastern in 1862-3. The present metropolitan termini are in Fenchurch Street and Liverpool Street. In its earlier days the Eastern Counties Railway was remarkable for bad carriages, slow speed, frequent accidents, and high fares. Of late a more liberal spirit has prevailed, and few lines give greater facilities to the excursionist.

[*Main Points* : *Stratford*, *Lea Bridge Station* [*Tottenham* to *Roydon*, *viâ* *Waltham Abbey* and *Cheshunt*, in *Middlesex* and *Hertfordshire*], *Roydon*, *Burnt Mill*,



Harlow, Sawbridgeworth (Herts), Bishop's Stortford (Herts), Stanstead Mountfichet, Elsenham, Newport, Audley End, Saffron Walden, Chesterford, Ickleton.]

After crossing the numerous channels of the Lea, the *Great Eastern Railway* reaches Stratford, where it throws out its branch-lines on either hand. The main line, diverging to the N.W., sweeps round the valley of the Lea, and passes Lea Bridge, where the old Newmarket road crosses the river. It next shoots across to Tottenham, traverses the rich groves and fertile vales of Cheshunt and Broxbourne, Herts; and having re-entered Essex at *Roydon*, wends along the sweet valley of the Stort, on the very borders of the county. At Sawbridgeworth it crosses the Stort into Hertfordshire, touches at Bishop's Stortford, and, 1m. beyond, returns into Essex.

Here we stop at *Stanstead Mountfichet*. The name "Stanstead" is from the Stone Street, or Brito-Roman *viâ*, which formerly passed from hence to Chesterford. The *Mountfichets* were its Norman lords, who built a castle on an eminence about  $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S.W. of the Ch. Stanstead Hall, near the railway, is a handsome modern mansion, the residence of Lord Gardner; and on the hill above stands one of the towers of the ancient hall. At *Thremhall* a Benedictine Priory was founded by Gilbert de Mountfichet, soon after the Conquest; some small remains of the ancient building are still standing. The parish Ch. has been much altered and frequently repaired, so that it retains but little of its ancient character. It consists of a chancel, dating from the beginning of the 12th century; a nave, N. chapel, N. and S. porches, and a large square tower; the latter, which is of brick, was built in 1691.

*Elsenham Ch.* has some Norman portions. The embattled tower is probably Edwardian. *Quendon*, 3m. N.W. from Elsenham Station, has a small Ch. constructed of stone and flint; it was rebuilt about 1860. *Quendon Hall* (A. M. Byng, Esq.) is an Elizabethan mansion in a park. *Widdington Ch.* has a Norm. arch.

*Newport* is a large and pleasant village, situated in an open, fertile country, near the confluence of the three sources of the "reedy Cam," or classic Granta. It was anciently a market-town, and has still two annual fairs.

The general aspect of the village is eminently bucolic.

The Cam greatly enlivens and adorns its neighbourhood ; and especially the beautiful well-wooded grounds of *Shortgrove Hall*, the seat of W. C. Smith, Esq. Newport Ch. is a goodly Perp. building, with six Decor. stalls, three stone sedilia, a piscina, and carved rood-screen, and a fine tower which was rebuilt in 1858. The Grammar School was founded in the 16th century, by Mrs. Joyce Frankland.

*Debden*, 2m. from Newport Station, has a Gothic brick-built Ch., standing within the park of Debden Hall. The tower fell to the ground many years ago, through decay, and has not been rebuilt. The Hall is the seat of J. R. Cely-Trevilian, Esq. "Debden, and the adjacent parish, is a delightful spot when the woodlands which crown its fine hills are green in summer clothing, and its valleys below are covered with waving crops. It seems to have been from the earliest ages a favourite and fertile spot. At the time of the survey, when it was in the possession of Ralph de Peverell, it had four acres of vineyard, two of which were in bearing—a proof that the grape was then largely cultivated in the county, and the wine which cheered our forefathers was manufactured in their own homesteads."—*Coller's "Essex."*

*Wendens-Ambo* lies close to the railway, a small village with a low-towered Gothic Ch. *Wenden Lofts* is situated among the hills, 8m. W. It was held, *temp.* Henry III., by the Le Hout family, whence "Loughts," corrupted into "Lofts." The Ch., dedicated to St. Dunstan, was rebuilt about 1825. The Ch. is situated in the grounds of and close to *Lofts Hall* (J. Wilkes, Esq.), an Elizabethan mansion pleasantly situated on the summit of a hill. "At Wenden the foundations of an extensive Roman dwelling-house have been laid bare, amongst which were found coins of the Lower Empire; and the arch at the western end of the Ch. is turned with tiles from an hypocaust."—*Coller's "Essex."*

*Audley End*, the noblest "seat" in Essex, is most conveniently reached from the Wendens or Audley End Station. It derives its name from the founder of the Audley family—Sir Thomas Audley, at one time Chancellor to Henry VIII., and one of the most rapacious of the many rapacious favourites of that burly monarch. The manor of Walden belonged to Geoffrey de Mandeville, a knight in the train of William the Conqueror, but reverted to

the Crown, and remained a royal feoff until Henry VIII. bestowed it, with the Abbey of Walden and its estates, on the dissolution of religious houses, in 1583, on the aforesaid Sir Thomas.

This "clever and crafty man" was a principal agent in the spoilation of the English monasteries, and enriched himself with their plunder to a marvellous extent. He was also honoured with the title of Lord Audley of Walden, and invested with the Garter. "Yet," according to Lord Braybrooke, the able historian of Audley End, "instead of being contented with these repeated marks of the royal favour, we are compelled to admit that every grant which he obtained encouraged him to importune the king for farther recompense, and his letters prove that in making these applications he was mean enough to plead his poverty as an excuse, and even to assert that his character had suffered in consequence of the public services he had been obliged to perform." This unscrupulous peer died in 1554, and lies interred in the Ch. of Saffron Walden. Sir Thomas left two daughters, but the younger dying two years after her father's death, the elder became the possessor of all his vast estates, which, with her hand, she bestowed upon Lord Henry Dudley, killed at the battle of St. Quentin in 1557, and afterwards upon Thomas, fourth Duke of Norfolk. She died at the age of twenty-three. Her husband, the Duke of Norfolk, thus became one of the most wealthy and potent of the English nobles; and his ambition—as if increase had grown by what it fed on—induced him to enter into a scheme for marrying Mary Queen of Scots. Elizabeth summarily ended his ambitious dreams by beheading him for high treason on Tower Hill, June 2, 1572. He met his fate with signal courage, and the closing scene of his life was that which most redounded to his credit.

His son, Lord Thomas Howard, was restored by Act of Parliament, in 1583, to his father's honours, and contrived not only to ingratiate Queen Bess, but also in the next reign to secure the countenance of the sovereign. James I. raised him to the Earldom of Suffolk, made him Lord Chamberlain, and afterwards placed in his hand the white wand of the Lord Treasurer of England. Of this distinguished post he was deprived, towards the close of his career, through his concealment of the malpractices of his wife, who extorted large bribes from all applicants

for offices in her husband's gift; and he died at length in great distress and embarrassment.

He was the builder of the ancient mansion of Audley End, of which the present house is only a small portion. He expended upon its erection no less than £190,000, and furnished it at a cost of £80,000. To carry out his magnificent design, he parted with a portion of his estates and accepted the contributions of his kinsman the Earl of Northampton. Nevertheless he died £40,000 in debt, and the structure he had raised was planned on so vast a scale that his descendants were unable to maintain it except at the cost of a fortune.

James, the third Earl, disposed of Audley End to Charles II. for £50,000, receiving £30,000 of it in money and a mortgage of the remainder upon the unpopular imposition known as the "hearth-tax." The Court frequently resided there during the king's visits to Newmarket, and the superintendence of the mansion was confided to one of the Sussex family, who held the office of "housekeeper and keeper of the wardrobe."

The mansion at this time was one of the most magnificent of the seats of the English nobility, and attested the genius of the original architects, John Thorpe and Bernard Jansen. Evelyn, in his famous "Diary" thus describes it: "It is a mixt fabric," he says, "twixt ancient and modern, but observable for its being completely finished; and it is one of the stateliest palaces in the kingdom. It consists of two courts, the first very large winged with cloisters. The front hath a double entrance; the hall is faire, but somewhat too small for so august a pile. The kitchen is very large, as are the cellars, arched with stone very neat and well disposed. These offices are joined by a wing, out of the way, very handsomely. The gallery is cheerful, and, I think, one of the best in England; a faire dining-room, and the rest of the lodgings answerable, with a pretty chapel. The gardens are not in order, though well enclosed; it has also a bowling alley, and a nobly walled, wooded, and watered park. The river glides before the palace, to which is an avenue of lime trees, but all this is much diminished by its being placed in an obscure bottom. For the rest it is a perfectly uniform structure, and shows without, like a diadem, by the decoration of the cupolas and other ornaments to the pavilions."

In 1701 the house and park were bestowed by William III. on Henry, fifth Earl of Suffolk, who abandoned all claim to the mortgage of the obnoxious hearth-tax, whose repeal had been resolved upon. But, like his predecessor, he found it impossible to maintain in proper state that goodly pile, and a few years later, under the direction of Sir John Vanburgh, the demolition of a great portion of it was commenced. Strange satire on the ambition of its founder in constructing a house which devoured a fortune in its maintenance!

In 1747, Lord Effingham, the successor to the Earl of Suffolk, sold the house for £10,000, to Elizabeth, Countess of Portsmouth, who carried on the work of destruction and reduced the mansion to about its present dimensions. She bequeathed the estate to the eldest son of her sister, Lord Howard of Walden, who was created Baron Braybooke, of Braybrooke, in the county of Northampton, in 1784, and by him the unfortunate mansion of Audley End was splendidly repaired and restored, and rendered no unfitting habitation for an English nobleman.

Audley End, notwithstanding the vicissitudes which it has undergone, is, as we have already asserted, the largest of the baronial halls of Essex, and it presents a very magnificent and imposing aspect. It is reached by a semicircular walk through a well-wooded park, and attracts the attention of the visitor from the massiveness and simplicity of design. In the interior the most notable features are the great hall, 90ft. long, 27ft. in breadth, with a most elaborately carved oak screen. The saloon, anciently called the "Fish-room," from the peculiarities of its decorations, a magnificent chamber, 60ft. by 27ft.; the Gothic chapel, and the library. In one of the apartments is preserved a memorable relic—a narrow-backed, wide-armed chair of singular workmanship, containing a central medallion of Venus armed with an arrow and a burning heart. Its history is recorded on a brass plate inserted in the back: "This chair, once the property of Alexander Pope (the poet), was given as a keepsake to the nurse who attended him in his illness. From her descendants it was obtained by the Rev. Thomas Ashley, curate of the parish of Brinfield, and kindly presented by him to Lord Braybrooke in 1844, nearly a century after the poet's decease."

Near Audley End are to be traced the remains of a fine

Roman camp, and the track of a Roman road to Great Chesterford, a place on the borders of the county, of note in the old Imperial days.

To the E. of the railway, 2m.; 42m. from London, and 27m. from Chelmsford, on a bold eminence which overlooks the leafy masses of Audley End, and the green banks of the Slade rivulet, is situated

*Saffron Walden* (pop. in 1871, 5718), a neat, well-built, and orderly market-town, consisting of seven principal, and several subsidiary streets. The chief public buildings are a handsome and spacious Corn Exchange, a commodious Town Hall, and large Cattle Market. The Ch. rises with peculiar stateliness from the very crest of the hill—a noble Perp. building, principally built (in the reign of Henry VIII.) by Thomas, Lord Audley, Chancellor to Henry VIII., who died 1544, and whose tomb of touchstone, with an inscription, is in the S. chancel. Several of the Earls and Countesses of Suffolk are interred here. Dimensions: 200ft. long, 82ft. broad; tower 85ft., and spire 108ft. high. The roof is of timber, richly painted; the windows are finely carved, and the altar-piece is an admirable copy of Correggio's "Holy Family." Inns, the Cross Keys and Rose and Crown.

Saffron Walden derives its name from the Saxon words "weald" and "den"—the wooded hill—and the quantities of saffron found in its vicinity. A castle was built here by Geoffrey de Mandeville soon after the Norman Conquest, of which only a portion of the keep remains. But the *Pell* or *Upel Ditches*, a British encampment, show that its commanding position had previously been rendered available for military purposes. A grand tournament was held at Walden in 1252.

The town is governed by a mayor, four aldermen, twelve councillors, and a recorder. It possesses no peculiar manufactures, but several breweries and malt-kilns. The *Free Grammar School* was founded in 1428, and further endowed in 1525, by Dame Joan Bradbury and her brother, the Rev. John Leeche.

*Littlebury* stands close to the railway, 2m. N.W. of Saffron Walden. A Roman *viâ* traversed this parish, and within the area of a Roman camp stands its E. Eng. Ch., with embattled tower. Henry Winstanley, the architect, who built the first Eddystone Lighthouse and perished in it 1708, was a native of Littlebury.

At *Hempstead*, 7m. E. from Saffron Walden, there is an ancient Ch., dedicated to St. Andrew, annexed to the parish of Great Sampford; the tower fell in 1882. Here is a mural monument to William Harvey, M.D., the discoverer of the circulation of the blood, who died 1657. Several of the coffins in the vault are of lead, and of the shape of the human body.

*Hempstead Hall*, the site of which is now a farm, was some time the residence of Dr. Harvey. It was an old-fashioned, moated mansion; although the house is gone the moat can still be traced. The notorious robber and criminal, Dick Turpin, is stated to have been born in this village. This place was once famous for a gigantic tree, known as the *Hempstead Oak*. It was seventeen yards round at four feet from the ground, and the extent of its branches when in its prime was 88 yards. An engraving of it is given in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for May, 1802.

There are two *Chesterfords*. *Great Chesterford* has a station on the Great Eastern Railway. As its name indicates, it was the site of a Roman military colony (probably the *Camboricum* of Antoninus), which commanded the ford on the river Cam. The traces of a large encampment and of the walls of the colonia are very distinct. Coins and other evidences of Roman occupation have been found here. The Ch., dedicated to All Saints, is Perp. It is built of stone, with the usual square tower.

*Little Chesterford*, 1m. S., has a small Decor. Ch. presenting some interesting features, and containing a tomb and effigy of the reign of Henry III. It was restored in 1854.

Crossing the Cam the railway divides into two branches—one N.E., to Newmarket and Bury, the other N.W., to Cambridge, and enters Cambridgeshire near Ickleton.

(1.) *Great Eastern: Branch 1a. From Stratford to Manningtree.*

[*Main Points: Stratford, Forest Gate, Ilford, Romford, Brentwood, Ingatestone, Chelmsford, Witham, Kelvedon, Mark's Tey, Colchester, Ardleigh, Manningtree.*]

Crossing the river Lea half a mile beyond Bow Station, the Great Eastern enters Essex by way of Stratford and Ilford, and, having crossed the Roding, pushes through the once dense forest district of Epping and Hainault, opening up much woodland scenery.

At 12m. from London—on the Bourn or Rom brook, which flows into the Thames S. of Dagenham—we reach *Romford*\* (pop. 8239), so-called for a ford across the Rom, a small tributary of the Thames, which rises in the forest to the N. of the main road. It is a busy, increasing town, with a celebrated cattle market, a large Corn Exchange, a Town Hall, two iron-foundries, &c. The Ch., dedicated to St. Edward the Confessor, is a spacious building of Kentish rag, with Bath stone dressings, and was erected in 1850 on the site of the old parish Ch., which had become dilapidated, and contains some ancient memorials; among them being one, with effigy in alabaster, to Sir Anthony Cooke, preceptor to Edward VI., died 1576.

Romford is the capital of a district known as "the Liberty of Havering-atte-Bower," which comprises the parishes of Havering, Romford, and Hornchurch, and which constituted part of the demesnes of the Saxon monarchs. Peculiar privileges, arising in part from prescriptive right, and in part from a charter granted by Henry IV., and since that period frequently confirmed, belong to this district. There is still a separate commission for this Liberty of the Peace.

The week-day cattle-market held at Romford on Wednesdays is one of the largest in Essex, and within the vicinity of the metropolis. Inns, the Dolphin, Bell, and White Hart.

[*Hornchurch* (2 miles S.) is pleasantly situated on rising ground between the town of Romford and the river Thames. It is an extensive village, noted for its manufacture of agricultural implements. The main street was formerly called *Pelt Street*, from the number of peltmongers, or skinners, who formerly dressed leather here for the breeches-makers of Romford. The manor belonged to a monastic fraternity named "The Horned Monastery." It has a fine Ch. of the Decor. period, dedicated to St. Andrew, the tower and lofty spire forming a conspicuous object. The living is in the patronage of New College, Oxford. The fabric was restored in 1871.

A priory was founded here *temp.* Henry II., and rendered subordinate to the great hospital of St. Bernard

\* The name of Romford is said by some authorities to be derived from *Roman-ford*.



de Monte Jovis, in Savoy; but, along with the other alien priories, it was suppressed, and its estates added by William of Wykeham to New College, Oxford.

Near the Ch. is a large rabbit warren.

About a mile north of the Ch., in a small park, stands an old-fashioned country seat, Nelmes (Rev. T. H. Newman). Between Hornchurch and the river Thames are *Upminster*, *Paglesham*, and *Burnham*. The first-named village is pleasantly situated on the Ingrebourne brook. The Ch., dedicated to St. Lawrence, was almost entirely rebuilt in 1862. Upminster Hall (Col. Branfill) belonged formerly to the Abbots of Waltham. It is an ancient timber-built mansion, and stands in finely-wooded grounds, commanding extensive prospects over the surrounding country. Gaines Park, in this village, is a modern building of Elizabethan architecture.

The two last villages are in, or on the borders of, the marshland. Dr. Derham, the author of "Physico-Theology," was rector here in 1680-90. It is said that Lord Byron wrote part of "Childe Harold" when on a visit here to a Major Howard, at High House, E. of the Ch.

At Hare Street, 1m. N.E. from Romford, is a mansion called Hare Hall, to the internal decoration of which the celebrated Angelica Kauffman contributed a share.

*Dagenham Park*, 8¼m. N.E., is a well-wooded demesne, with a good modern house, built in 1772, by Sir Thomas Neave, Bart. *Repton Cottage*, in the High Street, was built by Humphrey Repton, the well-known landscape gardener. *Gidea Hall*, in a park on the N. of the road, occupies the site of a manor house, where Sir A. Cooke received Queen Elizabeth in 1568.

*Great Warley* lies in a very undulating country, commanding extensive views from the higher ground. The Ch. is E. Eng., and was restored in 1860. Christchurch, an ecclesiastical district formed in 1855, has a brick-built Ch. with embattled towers; it was enlarged in 1876.

At *Little Warley* was formerly situated the main dépôt of the recruiting service of the East India Company. There was a military camp here during the war against the first Napoleon; and George III. came more than once thither from London to review his troops. The common is still used for reviews of the local militia. There are also barracks for the training of recruits.

Little Warley Ch., dedicated to St. Peter, consists of a

nave and chancel, the latter containing two marble monuments to the Strutt family. Warley Hall, a Tudor brick-built mansion, is now converted into a barn.

The soil hereabouts is gravel and sand, which overlies the clay.

*South Weald*, 2m. W. from Brentwood, is a very picturesque village, standing on the slope of a hill. There are two seats — Weald Hall (C. Tower, Esq.), and Rotchetts (O. E. Coope, Esq.), once the favourite seat of the gallant Admiral Lord St. Vincent. The first-named mansion was formerly the seat of Sir Anthony Browne, and is remarkable as having been for a time the residence of Queen Mary. The house is pleasantly situated in the midst of an extensive park, in which are traces of a circular camp, which appears to have covered about seven acres, and to have been surrounded by a ditch.

South Weald has an interesting Ch., dedicated to St. Peter, containing several monuments and brasses. Under an arch between the chancel and a chapel on the N. side is an altar tomb of Sir Anthony Browne, Chief Justice of England, 1567, with effigy in brass of his wife. He was the founder of Brentwood Grammar School and of some almshouses here. The Ch. was restored in 1868.

At about 6m. from Romford we reach *Brentwood* (locally known as Burnt Wood), situated on a commanding eminence, in a finely-wooded district. As a market-town and agricultural centre it enjoys a considerable and, apparently, increasing prosperity. It has two annual fairs; a richly-endowed Grammar School, founded (as stated above) by Sir Anthony Browne and Dame Joan his wife in the 16th century; some old houses; traces of a circular camp with a single vallum; and an old chapel, which was founded in 1221, is now converted into a National School. The Ch., E. Eng., dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr, was built in 1834.

“In 1221 a chapel was built at the request of David, Abbot of St. Osyth, and with the consent of the Bishop of London, Richard Parsons, of Weald, and the Abbey and Convent of Waltham, it was dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr. in honour of Thomas à Becket. The convent presented the chaplain, whose perquisites arose from gifts by travellers on the road and such as came out of devotion to St. Thomas, whence a gate on the highway to Ongar, through which the devotees passed, was called

Pilgrim's Hatch, and the locality bears the name to this day. A portion of this chapel is now standing in the High Street, about midway on the N. side."—*Kelly*.

There are some pleasant villages in this vicinity which we may simply notice.

*Doddington*, 3m. N.W. The soil is generally a fruitful loam and the surface picturesquely undulated. The Ch. is E. Eng.; it is a small building, and was restored about 1854.

*Childerditch*, 3m. S. from Brentwood, has a modern Ch., consisting of chancel and nave; it contains an ancient font. Part of Thorndon Park is in this parish.

At *West Horndon*, 3m. S.E., is the noble seat and demesne of Lord Petre, the principal landowner in this part of the county. Here on the crest of a bold acclivity stands, or rather stood, Lord Petre's magnificent seat, Thorndon Hall. It was erected in the Classical style, so common in the middle of the last century, and consisted of a centre and wings, connected by corridors, and contained some valuable paintings by the old masters. The greater part of the mansion was destroyed by fire in 1878, and has not yet been rebuilt. The park is several miles in circuit, well stocked with deer, densely wooded, and broken up most romantically with hill and dale. Near the S.E. angle stands *East Horndon* Ch., a building of various styles, with a Decor. chancel and mortuary chapels of the Tyrell and Petre families. "In the south transept wall there is an altar tomb, which is said to be a memorial of the burial here of the heart or head of Queen Anne Boleyn."—*Kelly*. The font is Perpendicular.

*Herrington* is a finely-situated village, formerly the seat of the Heron family. *Ingrave*, on the E. of Thorndon Park, is surrounded with enjoyable landscapes. Its Ch., dedicated to St. Nicholas, is remarkable for the peculiar arrangement of its interior. At *Shenfield*, 1m. N.E., the Ch. has a nave, N. aisle, chancel, N. chapel, and tower crowned with lofty wooden spire. The edifice was restored in 1862, and a window of stained glass inserted as a memorial of the late Rev. C. J. Yorke.

*Ingatestone*, 5m. N.E., is a quiet old town, which seems to have fallen asleep, with little chance of ever waking up again, since the locomotive put an end to the glories of the road. Its name is thus interpreted: *Ing*, the meadow, *at-ye-stone*, at the (Roman) milestone. Its

Hall is a large brick Tudor building, erected by Sir W. Petre, *temp.* Henry VIII. It lies in a low situation. In the grounds are four large fish-ponds. Some costly articles of *vertu* and some rare art treasures are preserved within the Hall. The town is mostly the property of the Petre family, one of whom founded some almshouses for twelve poor Catholics in 1557. They were rebuilt by Lord Petre in 1840. At the Hyde, in this parish, the late Mr. John Disney made the Museum, which was called after his name. The Ch. is a large Perp. building, with a fine tower of red brick; it contains a fine marble altar tomb of Sir William Petre and his wife, with recumbent figures in alabaster between the chancel and S. aisle, together with some ancient armour. Inn, the Bell.

*Mountnessing*, 3m. N.E., locally called "Money's End," has an ancient Ch. dedicated to St. Giles. Here are Fitzwalters, commonly called the Round House, formerly the seat of the Halls, and Thoby Priory, the property of the Blencowe family. The latter place was founded in 1140, for canons of the Augustinian order. The neighbourhood will afford ample opportunities to the sketcher for enriching his notebook.

*Margaretting*, or St. Margaret's meadow, possesses a very ancient Ch., dedicated to that saint. The wooden tower is crowned by a shingled spire.

*Widford*, or the "wide ford" over the river Can, is partly in the parish of Chelmsford, from which station it is distant 2m. S.W. The Ch., dedicated to St. Mary, was built in 1862, on the site of an older edifice, which had become dilapidated. Hylands, the seat of A. Pryor, Esq., occupies a commanding situation in a well-wooded park. In this village is a public-house bearing the sign of "The Good Woman." The lady is supposed to represent St. Osyth, and is generally considered the only good woman in Essex!

Of *Chelmsford* we have already spoken. See p. 83.

Across a level pastoral country, interspersed with tranquil villages, shady groves, and well-tilled farms, the railway strikes in a north-easterly direction, passing *Boreham* (see *ante*, p. 86) and *Hatfield Peverel*. The latter is so named from its Roman lord, Ralph de Peverel. It is an extensive village, with a Norman and E. Eng. Ch., dedicated to St. Andrew, formerly belonging to a

Benedictine Priory, founded here in 1100 by William Peverel. In 1878 the Ch. was restored and enlarged. At Topping Hoe Hall, in this parish, are some of the finest cedars in the kingdom; and the noble oaks in Crix Park close by are probably relics of the "forest primæval."

We next reach *Witham*, "a small, but handsome and well-built market-town," situated on the Colchester road, near the confluence of the Brain with the Blackwater. Inn, the Three Cups. It is 88m. from London, 9m. from Chelmsford, and 14m. from Colchester. It dates its origin from the year 918, when Edward the Elder went "with some of his forces into Essex, and built and fortified the town of Witham." Traces of a circular British or Danish camp are visible a short distance from the town on the N., on Chipping (or Market) Hill, where the fair is held. At the request of Henry Compton, Bishop of London *temp.* King William III., leave was given to hold a live cattle market here.

In the reign of Henry III., Geoffrey de Lyston held land here by the service of carrying flour to make wafers on the king's birthday, if the king were within the realm.

The parish Ch., dedicated to St. Nicholas, is lofty and spacious, with features both of the Decor. and Perp. orders, and incongruous modern additions. The rood-screen is plain but good. The monuments are interesting. In the chancel are several memorials of the Stourtons.

At Witham was born the poet and cavalier, wit, dramatist, and courtier, Sir John Suckling, A.D. 1613. Here, near Chipping Hill, about 1780, was discovered a chalybeate spa; it is described in an essay on its mineral properties and medical virtues, by James Taverner, M.B., a very rare tract, published in 1787.

We now pass (on the right) the two villages of *Great* and *Little Braxted* (see *ante*, p. 64) and soon glide through the large station at *Kelvedon* (see p. 63). *Fearing* lies close to the railway bridge, just beyond the Blackwater. *Marks Tey*, or "Tey at the Elms," formerly belonged to the *Merc* or *Mark* family. The Ch., E. Eng., has some good painted glass. The tower is crowned by a wooden spire. *Marks Tey Hall* is an old building, with a portion of its ancient moat remaining. The Ch. at *Great Tey*, dedicated to St. Barnabas, is of higher architectural interest.

At  $8\frac{1}{2}$  m. we cross the Colne, and another  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. brings us to the Colchester (Mile End) Station. Thence we proceed through a richly-wooded country-side, whose landscape features are indicated by the descriptive names of its pleasant villages—*Greenstead*, *Elmstead*, *Ardleigh*, *Great* and *Little Bromley*, *Bentley*—and at 9 m. from Colchester reach *Manningtree*. We then cross the estuary of the Stour, and pass into Suffolk.

*Greenstead* is separated from the town of Colchester by the river Colne. The Ch., dedicated to St. Andrew, is of Norm. architecture; it was restored in 1856. Here the Abbot of Colchester was hung in Dec., 1589, for denying the supremacy of King Henry VIII. In 1864 a new ecclesiastical district was formed out of part of this and neighbouring parishes. The Ch., which was built in 1863, stands in the Ipswich road, 2 m. from Colchester.

*Elmstead* has a Ch. of the Perp. period, dedicated to St. Anne and St. Lawrence; it consists of a chancel, nave, side chapel, and tower.

*Ardleigh*, 5 m. N.E. from Colchester. The Ch. here, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, has a lofty tower, which serves as a landmark.

At *Great Bromley* the Ch., dedicated to St. George, is a large and handsome edifice, with an ornamental roof, fine monuments, and stained-glass windows. The Hall, now a farmhouse, was in the last century the residence of Lord Donegal. St. Mary's Ch., *Little Bromley*, consists of chancel, nave, and square tower.

*Great Bentley* and *Little Bentley* are remarkable for their ancient churches. The Hall of the latter place was formerly the chief residence of the Pyrton family, and subsequently of the Baynings, who erected a large mansion here. This was pulled down by the Earl of Oxford, who afterwards became the owner of the property.

*Manningtree* is a small market-town, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the station of Lawford and that of Mistley, on the Harwich branch of the Great Eastern Railway. The Ch., dedicated to St. Michael, was erected early in the 17th century, and has been twice enlarged. The interior was restored in 1873. The Corn Exchange, in the High Street, was built in 1865. Inns, the White Hart, Packet, and King's Head.

The town stands upon the S. bank of the Stour, which river, early in the reign of Queen Anne; was, by

an Act of Parliament, rendered navigable from hence to Sudbury, in Suffolk.

*Great Eastern, Branch 2a. From Stratford to Tilbury and Southend.*

[*Main Points:* Stratford, West Ham, East Ham, Barking, Rainham, Wennington, Aveley, Purfleet, Grays Thurrock, Tilbury, Mucking, Stanford-le-Hope, Horndon-on-the-Hill, Vange, Pitsey, Benfleet, Leigh, Southend.]

The *Tilbury Branch* of the *Great Eastern* traverses, for its whole length, a level, pastoral, and marshy district, without one tunnel, or any surprising gradient. It can hardly be said to get clear of the metropolis until it reaches Barking, and the first six or seven miles of its course are consequently of an unpleasing character. Of Barking (see p. 76) we have already spoken. We shall therefore carry the traveller rapidly across the Barking Level and Dagenham Marshes, pointing out on the right a district of blooming orchard-grounds, gay with cherry-blossom, and pause at *Rainham*.

*Rainham* (pop. 1122) stands on the E. side of the Ingerbourne rivulet, 1½ m. N. of the Thames, in the heart of a fertile breadth of rich marshy land. The Ch., dedicated to St. Helen and St. Giles, is a massive pile of stone, of Norman character, with later additions.

*Wennington* Ch., with its embattled tower, stands on an eminence above the marshes.

*Aveley*, now a village, had formerly a market, and has still a fair. The Ch., dedicated to St. Michael, is built of stone and flint, and contains several interesting monuments and brasses. *Belhus*, or *Belhouse*, a goodly specimen of the Tudor manorial mansion, standing in a well-timbered park, is the seat of Sir Thomas Lennard. Queen Elizabeth slept here on the night before she reviewed her troops at Tilbury.

Of *Purfleet* we have spoken in our Thames route. For *Gray's Thurrock* see p. 29.

*Stifford*, 2m. from Grays, has a Ch., of E. Eng. architecture, in which are several tombs and brasses. In the register, which dates from 1568, are many curious entries. (See also "*Essex Dialect*," p. 11 *ante*.)

Between *Tilbury* and *Gravesend* a steam-ferry plies regularly.

*East Tilbury Ch.*, with its E. Eng. tower and spire—a low, neat building—stands on the slope of the green hills which rise from the flat, marshy bank of the river.

*Chadwell St. Mary*, so named from a well dedicated to St. Chad, who is said to have built a Ch. at Tilbury, lies beyond E. Tilbury, about 2½m. E. of Grays Thurrock. It is noticeable for its extensive chalk-works, many of which are of great antiquity, and form large caverns from 55ft. to 80ft. deep. The Ch. contains a nave, a chancel, and a lofty tower of stone.

[From London to Tilbury the course of the railway is S.E.; at Tilbury it strikes off to the N.E. as far as Pitsey, where it turns southward, and in a south-easterly direction extends to Southend.]

*Mucking* belonged to the Abbess and Convent of Barking until the Dissolution, when it was granted to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, who are still lords of the manor. The Ch., dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was almost entirely rebuilt in the Norman style a few years ago. The parish was held by the Abbey of Barking from the Saxon era down to the time of the dissolution of monasteries, when it was granted to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's. There was formerly a convent here—a cell of Barking Abbey.

*Stanford-le-Hope* lies about 1½m. N. of that reach or bend of the Thames called "The Hope." The soil is fertile and well cultivated. The Ch. is an old E. Eng. building, and stands on rising ground. *Horndon-on-the-Hill* occupies a lofty eminence, overlooking the valley of the Thames from the mast-crowded Pool to the batteries of Sheerness. Like Mucking, it belongs to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, and has an E. Eng. Ch. This fabric, which is dedicated to St. Peter, consists of a chancel, nave, aisles, and a wooden tower. Collier, in his "History of Essex," says that amongst its ancient monuments is, or was, one in great decay, with this inscription, seemingly dedicated by a lady to her husband :

"Take, gentle marble, to thy trust,  
And keep unmixed this sacred dust;  
Grow moist sometimes, that I may see  
Thou weep'st in sympathy with me.  
And when by him I here shall sleep,  
My ashes also safely keep;  
And from rude hands preserve us both, until  
We rise to Sion Mount from Horndon-on-the-Hill."



*Coringham* is a small, straggling village, stretching towards the marshes and inlets of the Thames. Its Ch., standing on a green, has the customary tower and shingled spire. It is of Norman architecture, with remarkably thick walls.

*Fobbing* occupies a bold acclivity rising abruptly from the marshes, which are completely *reticulated* by river-creeks, especially by Thames Haven, connected with Stanford-le-Hope by a branch railway. According to Stow, Jack Cade's rebellion broke out at Fobbing, and the mob took possession of a neighbouring priory, drank up three tons of wine, and devoured all the victuals. The lofty tower of its Ch. forms a conspicuous landmark, and may plainly be descried from the Kentish hills.

*Vange, or Fange*, on a creek of the Thames, has a small E. Eng. Ch. *Pitsea* Ch., of a similar period of architecture, stands on a bold hill.

At *South Benfleet*, situated on Hadleigh Bay, a Dane sea-king named Hælsten built a fortalice, which Alfred the Great captured and destroyed in 894. The Ch. is a noteworthy pile; its stone tower supports a lofty spire of wood.

*Hadleigh*, 2½ m. N.E. from South Benfleet Station, is chiefly interesting for the remains of a castle, which was built here by Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, *temp.* Henry III., and the place from that circumstance was long distinguished by the name of *Hadleigh ad Castrum*. The ruins of the castle, consisting of fragments of walls and broken towers, stand upon the brow of a steep hill commanding an extensive prospect of the county of Kent. The length of the ballium, from E. to W., is about 340 ft., and its extreme width 180 ft. It is built of Kentish ragstone; and the mortar with which it is cemented, containing a large admixture of shells, is as hard as the stone itself. At the N.E. and S.E. corners are the remains of two towers, the walls being 9 ft. thick. The spot is resorted to in summer for picnics, &c.

Hadleigh Ch., dedicated to St. James, is partly of Norman architecture, with a short tower and spire; the E. end is semicircular, and the chancel is separated from the nave by a heavy arch; the fabric has been recently restored. Hadleigh House (Sir C. Nicholson, Bart.) is pleasantly situated, and commands good views over the surrounding country.

At *Thundersley* the Ch. exhibits Norman, E. Eng., and

Decor. details. It was restored in 1865. The name Thurresley, or Thorsley, seems to point out the locality as associated with the rites of Saxon paganism.

Having already described *Leigh* and *Southend* (pp. 32, 33), our notice of this branch of the Great Eastern here may terminate.

*Great Eastern : Branch 8a, Stratford to Loughton.*

[*Main Points* : Stratford, Leyton, Leytonstone, Snaresbrook, Woodford, Buckhurst, Loughton.]

From Stratford this branch of the Great Eastern turns off in a N.E. direction. The first station is at *Low Leyton*—a wooded village of much beauty—deriving its name from its position on the Lea, and now largely occupied with pleasant suburban villas. Numerous Roman remains have been discovered here. This place was probably taken by the Romans as a prætorium, and a stone coffin, in good preservation, was discovered here in making the cutting for the railway to Cambridge. It is thought that Leyton, or Layton, points to the name of Durolitum in the Itinerary of Antoninus. It is shown to have been a Roman station by the many urns and other articles found here, and to the S. towards Shelford.

Sir Thomas Roe, the first English ambassador to the East Indies, was born in this parish in 1580.

The Ch., dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, is a plain structure of brick ; it was rebuilt in 1821. Samuel Keene, its vicar, became a captain in the Parliamentary army, and is said to have preached in the Ch. in a buff coat. In the chancel is a flat gravestone inscribed to "John Strype, the Historian and Antiquarian," who officiated as minister here for many years. He died 1787. It is curiously remarked in "*Magna Britannia*" (1738) that "John Strype, the present vicar, is a person of great learning and diligence, who hath put out divers works." William Bowyer, the eminent printer, who died 1777, is also buried here. About half a mile from the Ch., on the Lea, are the Temple Mills, once the property of the lofty Knights Templars.

*Leytonstone*, N.E. of Low Leyton, contains numerous good houses. The district Ch. was erected in 1882.

Of the picturesque villages of *Snaresbrook* and *Wanstead* we have already spoken. (See p. 73.)

*Woodford*—on the Roding—is another of those pleasant suburban villages with which the great metropolis is now agreeably girdled. This parish was the birthplace of the late Mr. George E. Street, the celebrated architect. Here George Herbert, poet and divine, lived for a time with his brother, Sir Henry Herbert. Like Buckhurst, it lies within the district of Epping Forest, which still retains the traces of its ancient glory. It originally covered an area of about 60,000 acres, and was known as Waltham Forest, whose leafy glades often echoed with the horns of the royal huntsmen in the days when lords and ladies, kings and queens, loved to prick merrily to the chase. “*Magna Britannia*” describes the Forest as “of large extent, full of game, and well stocked with deer, the fattest and largest in the kingdom.” The title of Lord Warden of the Forest was, down till recently, hereditary in the family of the Earls of Mornington. The neighbourhood of Woodford is particularly rich in its flora, and the “*Plantæ Woodfordienses*” of Richard Warner is a text-book for botanists. Indeed, nearly every part of the Forest is a “happy hunting-ground” to the botanist who is in search of mosses, wild-flowers and grapes, and fresh-water algæ. The white-tailed eagle has occasionally been found here. Mr. Bohn remarks: “The largest woods are in parts of North Kent and Surrey. Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire also can produce some tolerably large woods; but in the other counties included in the basin of the Thames there are few assemblages of trees worthy of more than the name of copses, with the exception of the forests of Windsor and Epping.”

“It was probably about this spot, between the towns of Epping and Waltham, that Queen Boadicea, having defeated the Romans at Colchester, was vanquished by the Imperial troops and escaped only to die of grief or of poison. Truly it has been said that ‘we dwell among the ruins of successive races and heed them not.’ How little does the quiet traveller from Epping to Waltham or Loughton think that a scene of blood like this has passed over the very spot which he is crossing!”—*Coller's Essex.*”

This large tract of woodlands, of which Epping Forest is the sole “survival,” was anciently called the “Forest of Essex,” and with good reason, for it stretched across the country to the sea.—*Magna Britannia.*

Epping Forest is intersected by railways, with stations at short intervals so as to furnish points of approach in all directions. It has all the charms of hill and dale, open plain and pleasant avenue, with deep umbrageous recesses here and there, comprising altogether every variety of forest scenery, fringed with far-spreading landscapes reaching into half a dozen counties. Its historic associations give zest to its other attractions. It dates from before the Norman Conquest, and has been trodden by the feet of good Queen Bess, a relic of whose hunting-lodge still exists at Chingford. Even the memory of Boadicea, as shown above, is not wholly wanting. There are indications of ancient encampments appertaining to the time of the Romans, and it is a speculation with antiquarians that the Romans had their camp at Ambresbury Bank, while the British Queen drew up her forces at Loughton. The more recent history of the Forest is replete with incidents of vital interest to the present generation. A battle has been fought for the possession of this territory as earnest as any between Roman and Briton.

In 1871 the Corporation of London undertook the responsibility of the contest for the preservation of Epping Forest, every previous effort having utterly failed. More than 2000 acres had been illegally enclosed within a few years without any serious attempt to prevent it, and the then Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. R. Lowe) had refused to interfere, declaring that in his opinion the forest belonged to the lords of the manor to do with as they pleased, and a resolution of the House of Commons in favour of the preservation of the Forest, he informed the people of Glasgow, "the Government had treated with contemptuous indifference!" This was the condition of things when the Corporation of London commenced their voluntary task. Not only have the 2000 acres above alluded to been recovered, but the public are in possession of 5600 acres of beautiful forest land, which they will enjoy unmolested for all time.

A Board of Commissioners for the management of Epping Forest was appointed by Act of Parliament in 1878, and the purchase of the land was effected by the Corporation of London at the cost of about £270,000; the Forest to be preserved as a recreation ground for the East-Londoners. H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught was appointed Ranger,

and on May 6, 1882, the Queen paid a visit to the Forest for the purpose of formally declaring it freely open to the public; her Majesty at the same time planting an oak in commemoration of the event, and signifying her wish that the wood at High Beech, in the neighbourhood of Chingford, hitherto known as Beech Wood, should henceforth be known as "Queen Victoria's Wood." High Beech is the highest plateau of the Forest. Here the London clay formation attains its greatest altitude, 759ft. above the sea-level. Mr. Sotheby, the poet, was long a resident at High Beech; also Tennyson, who wrote here "Locksley Hall."

That Epping Forest in former times was not without its terrors may be inferred from the following scrap of information taken from an old newspaper: "On Tuesday, January 22nd, 1798, as Mr. Alderman Plomer was taking an airing in his carriage in Epping Forest, he was stopped near the eight-mile stone by a single highwayman, who presented a pistol, and robbed him of a watch and about fourteen guineas."

Between Woodford Wells and Loughton is an inn called the Bald-faced Stag, whose sign recalls the days of the Epping Hunt, which took place near this spot on Easter Monday annually, but was abolished about 1845.

*Buckhurst Hill*, which adjoins Woodford and has a station on the Woodford branch of the Great Eastern Railway, commands extensive views over both Epping and Hainault Forests. This place is the head-quarters of the Essex Naturalist and Field Club. The Ch., dedicated to St. John, is a stone building in the E. Eng. style.

*Loughton* lies in the valley of the Roding, and on the skirt of the green woodlands in a tranquil and picturesque situation, which has claims for the artist as well as the valetudinarian, the poet as well as the weary slaves of commerce. The new Ch. is of Norman architecture.

*Great Eastern: Branch 4a, Walthamstow and Chingford, via Clapton.*

The more direct and newer route to the above places is *viâ* Clapton. The stations of St. James's Street, Hoe Street, Wood Street, and Hale End are all within a few minutes' walk of the village of Walthamstow; Chingford is about 1½m. further distant.

*Great Eastern : Branch 5, Witham to Bishop's Stortford.*

From Witham, on the Colchester and Norwich line, 87m. from London, a short branch diverges in a N.W. direction to Braintree, following up the valley of the Brain, a small tributary of the Blackwater. It passes to the E. of the villages of *White* and *Black Notley*.

*White Notley* is 3½m. S.S.E. of Braintree, and boasts of a fine old Ch., originally Norm. but modified by numerous Decor. details. The piscina is noteworthy. The edifice was restored in 1874.

At *Black Notley*, 1½m. S. of Braintree, the Ch. is also Norm., with Perp. additions. The chancel was "restored" in 1847. In this quiet little village was born, in 1570, the learned Bishop Bedell. John Ray, the naturalist and philosopher, and the author of the once famous treatise on "The Wisdom of God Manifested in the Works of Creation," was born here in 1627. In the churchyard a stone tomb records his death in 1706. His name is immortalized in the Ray Society.

At *Rivenhall*, on the E. bank of the Brain, was born Thomas Tusser, in 1523, the author of "Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry." The Ch., which was restored in 1878, contains a monument to Lord Western.

*Braintree* (pop. 4790; 40m. from London, 15m. from Colchester), anciently Branketre, Branchentree, and Bromptre, is supposed to owe its rise to the position of a market-town to its situation on the highway travelled by pilgrims from London to the shrines of St. Edmund and Our Lady of Walsingham. After the expulsion of the Flemings by the Duke of Alva, a colony of these industrious and intelligent artisans settled here, and introduced the woollen manufacture, supplanted of late years by the silk manufacture, which employs a large number of hands. Numerous remains of the Roman era have been discovered in this vicinity. The town stands on an acclivity, which rises between the two rivers—Blackwater and Brain. Its Ch. dates from 1850, but was greatly enlarged in the reign of Henry VIII. Inns, the Bull, Horn, and Boar's Head.

From Braintree the line is continued westward, *via* Dunmow, to Bishop's Stortford (see roads, route *g*., p. 129).

*Branch 6a, Colchester to Walton-on-the-Naze.*

This line follows the course of the Colne Valley to

Wivenhoe (see p. 57-8), when it passes eastward, *via* Kirby Street, to Walton-on-the-Naze (see p. 90).

*Great Eastern : Sub-Branch 1b, Witham to Maldon.*

From Witham diverges, in a S.E. direction, a short branch line to *Maldon*, the port of the Blackwater estuary (see p. 65), passing the little Blackwater villages of Wickham Bishops, Langford, and Heybridge, already described (see p. 65).

*Sub-Branch 2b, Marks Tey to Sudbury.*

[*Main Points : Aldham, Mount Bures, Lamarsh, Ballingdon-cum-Brunden.*]

The Stour Valley branch of the Great Eastern branches off N.W. from Marks Tey, and at 1m. reaches

*Aldham*, the old "ham," a small, pleasant village in a fertile and agreeable country. It was held by Odo, Bishop of Bayeux at the time of the Domesday survey. The Ch. is E. Eng., was built in 1854, and contains a memorial to Morant, the historian of the county, who was rector of this parish and of St. Mary's, Colchester. The old Ch. stood about a mile distant from the present building.

Of *Mount Bures*, *Lamarsh*, and *Ballingdon* we have spoken in our notice of the river Stour (see p. 84).

*Sub-Branch 3b, Manningtree to Harwich.*

As in our notice of the river Stour we have described the villages on its S. bank, which is traversed by the Harwich branch of the Great Eastern with but little deviation, we need only repeat here that the country is low, flat, and lightly wooded. There are stations at Mistley, Thorn, Bradfield, Wrabness, and Dovercourt.

*Sub-Branch 4b, Wivenhoe to Brightlingsea.*

For the villages on this line refer to p. 58.

*Sub-Branch 5b, Kirby Street to Clacton-on-Sea.*

This is a short line giving easy access to Clacton-on-Sea (see p. 91).

ROADS.

- a. From *London* to *Harwich*=72m.
- b. „ *London* to *Chesterford*=49m.
- c. „ *London* to *Sudbury*=57m.

- d. From *London to Rochford*=46m.
- e. „ *Chelmsford to Epping*=19m.
- f. „ *Chelmsford to Rochford*=20m.
- g. „ *Colchester to Bishop's Stortford*=30m.
- h. „ *Colchester to Haverhill*=81½m.

a. From London to Chelmsford, Colchester, and Harwich.

This route is so precisely the same, whether we travel by railway or along the high road, that we shall regard them as one. In the former case we start from Bishopsgate, and in the latter from Aldgate.

At 3¼m. from Aldgate and 8m. from Whitechapel Ch. the road, which runs through Mile End, is uniformly broad and monotonous, brings us to the river Lea, which we cross by Bow Bridge, already described (see p. 42).

The railway passes through Spitalfields, about half a mile to the north of this road, but they both approach together at *Stratford*—the Street-Ford, from the Roman *stratum*—which half a century ago was little more than a country village, but now is a large centre of railway works and stores. Its population (23,286) is employed on the railway, or in mechanical arts subservient to it.

At Stratford, in Mary's reign, eleven persons were burnt to death. Henry III. and his court seem to have stayed here for three months.

Forest Courts were formerly held here; and in the reign of Charles I. more than one attempt was made here to revive some of the most oppressive portions of the old forest laws, which helped to precipitate the Civil War.

Through the lower part of Stratford the road is constructed on the top of a causeway, which may be as old as the Roman occupation.

Stratford Ch. (St. John's) is a large edifice in the E. Eng. style, and was erected in 1834 as a chapel-of-ease to the mother Ch. of West Ham. St. John's became a separate parish in 1844, and a vicarage in 1866. Christ Ch., in the High Street, was built in 1850, and is a large stone edifice in the Decor. style.

The Town Hall, at the corner of West Ham Lane and the Broadway, was erected in 1868-9, and is a large and commodious building.

Of the Abbey of Stratford Langthorne, which was



founded here about 1184, for monks of the Cistercian order, not a vestige remains. It stood in the marshes, on a branch of the Lea, and its site is now partly occupied by some silk print works.

The road and the railway run parallel, the latter for the most part through a shallow cutting, past Ilford, which we have already described (see p. 76).

To the S. of the road lie Plaistow and the villages of East and West Ham; but these, as well as Purfleet and Rainham, have been already described in our route between London and Southend (see pp. 42, 48).

The first town of any importance that we reach is *Romford*, twelve miles from London (see p. 105). The railroad having crossed the coach-road, runs here on the S.

Beyond Romford both the road and the railroad now enter on more attractive country, undulating and fairly wooded. On the N. is Hainault Forest, already described (see p. 75), and *Havering-atte-Bower*; the latter gives its name to a Royal Liberty, which includes parts of three adjacent parishes, and has a sessions court and a magisterial commission of its own.

Havering-atte-Bower was once a royal residence, being occupied as a hunting-box by several of our kings; and it was so named from a bower, or leafy retreat, possibly not unlike that of the fair Rosamond at Woodstock. In spite of an abundance of foliage, it is said that the nightingales are never heard in the park here, their predecessors having been driven away in answer to the prayers of Edward the Confessor, whom they disturbed by their song when he was engaged in devotion.

Havering-atte-Bower is a district and "Liberty" forming part of the original Forest of Waltham. It is about two or three miles N. and N.E. of Romford, and was a residence of royalty in the Saxon times.

*Pyrgo* or *Peryo Park*, in this Liberty, the seat of Lieut.-General Albert Ffytche, was a royal residence in the Tudor times, and Queen Elizabeth stayed here for several days on her progress into Suffolk in 1570. The palace was pulled down about the year 1770.

The remainder of the places passed are described in the account of the railway (pp. 105-111).

*b. From London to Chesterford=49m. .*

[*Main Points* : Lea Bridge, Buckhurst, Epping, Harlow,

Sawbridgeworth, Bishop's Stortford, Ugley, Quendon, Newport, Winden, Littlebury, Little Chesterford, Great Chesterford.]

Between Woodford and Epping the traveller passes through a picturesquely wooded district. The glories of the ancient forest have been sadly shorn, but something of its romantic beauty still survives, and there are many spots which might inspire a poet or painter.

*Epping*, an ancient settlement of the Saxon Eppingas, is a small market-town situated upon a high ridge of table-land, 16½m. from London. Its elevation exceeds 850ft. above the sea level, but it is well supplied with water. Henry II. granted this manor to Westminster Abbey. At the Dissolution it came to the Crown, and was granted by Elizabeth to the Heneage family. The chief part of the town, called Epping Street, lies a mile and a half S. of the Ch., which stands on a bold hill. This fabric has been too frequently repaired and restored to preserve much of its ancient character. Inns, the Old Thatched House, Duke of Wellington, and Duke of York.

The Epping Hunt, which dated its origin from early in the 18th century and was formerly held on Easter Monday, near Buckhurst Hill, was for many years the chief Cockney fête, and divided with Greenwich Fair the attention of the pleasure-loving public of the E. end of the metropolis. It was always supposed that the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London had an hereditary right to hunt over this part of the royal forest.

*Copt Hall* originally Coppice Hall, about a mile S.W., was a country seat belonging to the Abbot of Waltham. Sir Thomas Heneage enlarged the mansion, and erected here "one of the most stately galleries in England." It has since been the seat of the Finches, the Sackvilles, Websters, and Conyerses; and is now the property of Mr. G. Wythes. It is a large building in the modern Classical style, and stands on the site of an old mansion granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Thomas Heneage, Vice-Chamberlain of the Household.

*Nazing*, which lies about 2m. W., on the outskirts of the county, is separated from Herts by the river Lea. The parish in bygone times formed part of the Great Forest of Waltham, but was disafforested *temp.* Richard I. It was of old called "Nasingen," and "Nesinges," and was one of the Lordships bestowed by Harold on Waltham

Abbey. At the Dissolution the manor was granted to the Denny family. The Ch. of All Saints dates probably from the 13th century, but was restored about 1875. It is built of flint and stone, and stands on high ground. It is a large and stately edifice, and contains some interesting architectural features. *Nazing Park* is the seat of George Palmer, Esq.

The enclosure of the common lands in this parish was so managed by Mr. G. Palmer, one of the Verderers of Epping Forest, as to help on the civilization of the poor. Assistance was given, both in loans to stock the land when first enclosed, and by giving them property in live-stock. A most lawless set thus became one of the most orderly in the county.

From Epping until we reach Harlow (see p. 45) the country retains a picturesque and agreeable character—is well wooded, and thinly populated. At Harlow we may turn off for an excursion to *Hatfield Broad Oak*—or *Hatfield Regis*—a large ancient village, where a venerable old Ch. well deserves the tourist's examination. This parish belonged as a manor to Earl Harold under Edward the Confessor. The Conqueror kept it in his own hands. Henry I. gave it to St. Botolph's Abbey in Colchester.

Here Aubrey de Vere, Earl of Oxford, in the reign of Henry III. founded a Priory. After the Dissolution this passed into several hands, and ultimately into those of the Barringtons, one of whom was allied by marriage with royalty. The chancel contains the cross-legged effigy of Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, one of the barons appointed to enforce the laws of *Magna Charta*.

Returning to Harlow, and resuming our route to Chesham, we enter Hertfordshire, and follow up the valley of the Stort on the W. slope. About 1m. beyond Bishop's Stortford we again enter Essex. Thenceforth our road becomes almost identical with the track pursued by the *Great Eastern* (main line), and for a description of the villages it passes we may refer the reader to the preceding pages (97-104).

c. *London to Sudbury*=57m.

[*Main Points*: Ilford, Romford, Brentwood, Ingatestone, Chelmsford, Great Waltham, Little Leigh, Braintree, Halstead, Sudbury.]

Here, again, it will be unnecessary to recapitulate infor-

mation already supplied to the reader. From London to Chelmsford the intervening country is described on pp. 121, 122, being the line of the Great Eastern Railway; from Chelmsford to Braintree, see p. 83; for Halstead, on the Colne, refer to p. 48. The villages between Halstead and Sudbury require but brief notice.

At *Great Maplestead* the Trans. Norm. Ch. has an apsidal chancel, and contains two remarkable memorials. The building has been lately restored and enlarged.

The parish of *Little Maplestead* belonged to the chivalric order of the Knights Hospitallers, to whose patron saint (John of Jerusalem) the Ch. is dedicated. It is one of the four circular churches, and bears a resemblance to the Temple Ch., London. The W. end forms a circle 80ft. in diameter, and has a peristyle, consisting of light clustered columns supporting Decor. arches. The E. end is semicircular. The edifice was restored, or almost rebuilt on the old lines, in 1855. The font is Norm. and very curious.

*d. London to Rochford=46m.*

[*Main Points* : Barking, Rainham, Wenington, Purfleet, Grays Thurrock, Chadwell, Mucking, Stanford-le-Hope, Vange, Pitsey, South Benfleet, Hadleigh, Prittlewell, Sutton, Rochford.]

In our sketch of the river Thames and of the Tilbury and Southend Railway we have described the country traversed by the above road as far as *Prittlewell*, where we leave the river-bank and strike inland in a northerly direction to arrive at Rochford.

*Rochford* (pop. 1589), 40m. from London in a direct road, 46m. by the route already indicated, is an ancient and irregularly-built market-town, situated on the river Broomhill, just above its expansion into a creek or estuary. It derives its name from the little river Roch, or Roche, a tributary of the Crouch, and is a sleepy little town, which gave an earldom to the Zulensteins and the Nassaus. The market-house is a wooden building, date 1707. The old mansion of Rochford Hall is traditionally reputed to have been a residence of Anne Boleyn. The Ch. is ancient, dating from the early part of the 14th century. Rochford Hundred possesses some of the finest agricultural land in the kingdom. A singular custom here is the Lawless, or Whispering Court. Its origin is

uncertain, but it appears to have been instituted by a lord of the manor on some refractory tenants. "It is held in the open air, on King's Hill, on the midnight of the first Wednesday after Michaelmas day, and all the business is transacted in whispers; the minutes being made with a coal in place of pen and ink. The steward opens the court in as low a whisper as possible, yet those tenants who neglect to answer are fined, and every absentee forfeits double his rent for every hour's absence. The time of assembling is from twelve till cockcrow." Inns, the Old Ship and King's Head.

*e. Chelmsford to Epping=19 m.*

[*Main Points:* Writtle, High Ongar, Shelley, Bobbingworth, Epping.]

*Writtle* is a large and well-built village, on the W. bank of the Cam, 2½ m. S.W. of Chelmsford. An extensive green adorns it, and as large a sheet of water. Many scattered houses may be found in this vicinity of great architectural interest; timber-built mansions, with gables and projecting eaves, and their interiors divided into noble chambers. The road from London to Chelmsford traversed this village, which is reputed to have been a Roman station, until Maurice, Bishop of London, erected Moulsham Bridge about 1100.

A square plot of ground, surrounded by a moat, is traditionally pointed out as the site of a palace erected by King John about 1211. The parochial limits were, and are, very extensive, including no less than 8672 acres. The village could formerly boast of a market and two annual fairs, but these have long grown obsolete.

The Ch. is a large and stately pile, with a lofty stone tower, rebuilt in 1802, but not in keeping with the other portions of the Ch., which are E. Eng. The clerestory, however, is of later date, and the carved timber roof exhibits the rich details of the Tudor style. In 1899 the Ch. was granted by the Crown to William of Wykeham, whose architectural genius may be seen in it.

The road from Writtle proceeds in a W. by S. direction, through a pleasant, open country, leaving Writtle Park on the right, and striking across heath and meadow-land to the village of *High Ongar*, where there is an interesting Ch. (see p. 70). Ongar has given birth to a distinguished literary family: Jane Taylor, a writer of some merit;

Isaac Taylor, author of "The Natural History of Enthusiasm;" and his son, the Rev. Isaac Taylor, author of "Words and Places." Inn, the Red Lion. *Chipping Ongar* lies 1m. S.W.

*Shelley* is 2m. N.W. of High Ongar. The Ch. is E. Eng. The rectory, an ancient timbered building, is noteworthy as for many years the residence of Bishop Newton, the commentator on the Prophecies.

*Bobbingworth*—a settlement of the Bobingas—lies close to Shelley, in a sequestered and agreeable situation, enlivened by the windings of the Cripsey, a tributary of the Roding. The Ch. is a mixture of many styles. The E. window and chancel are Decor. The heavy embattled tower is chiefly built of wood.

*Greenstead*, 1m. from Ongar, has a Ch. dedicated to St. Andrew, said to be the most ancient Ch. in the world. It is entirely composed of wood; the walls are composed of the trunks of chestnut trees, split into two, and let into a sill and plate; they are perfectly smooth and flat on the inside. Upon the S. side are sixteen of these trunks, and two door-posts; upon the N. twenty-one, and two vacancies filled up with plaster. It was entirely restored in 1847. This Ch. is supposed to have been erected as a temporary shrine for the body of St. Edmund, King of the E. Angles, on its translation from London to Bury St. Edmund's.

For 5m. our road now runs in a S.W. direction, through a countryside which is richly decorated with foliage, and at 19m. from Chelmsford arrives at Epping.

*f. Chelmsford to Rochford=20m.*

[*Main Points*: Great Baddow, W. and E. Hanningfield, Rettendon, Raleigh, Rochford.]

After quitting Chelmsford by the Moulsham suburb, and passing the demesne of Moulsham Hall, we strike S.E. to *Great Baddow*, which has been—not inappropriately—described as one of the handsomest villages of Essex. The Ch. is a large ancient building, with a massive ivy-shrouded tower crowned by a lofty spire. Its details are chiefly E. Decor. Alexander Barclay, the translator of the "Ship of Fools," held the vicarage in 1546. On Galleywood Common, in an outlying part of this parish, is the Chelmsford Racecourse.

*Little Baddow* Ch., dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, contains two ancient tombs, supposed to date from the

reign of Stephen ; there are also other interesting monuments to the Mildmays and Fitzwalters.

*Danbury*, 5m. E. from Chelmsford, stands S. of the river on high ground, the summit of which is crowned by the remains of an ancient camp. The Ch. of St. John the Baptist is an ancient edifice, with a lofty wooden spire ; it was restored and enlarged in 1866-67. "It contains the effigies of three cross-legged knights, curiously carved in wood, supposed to be the representatives of the Clere family."—*Kelly's Directory*. *Danbury Place*, now *Danbury Palace*, was purchased in 1845 by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, as a residence for the Bishops of Rochester, and it is now the residence of the Bishop of the newly-founded diocese of St. Albans.

At *Bycknacre*, 2m. S., are the remains of a Priory for black canons, founded *temp.* Henry II., by Maurice Fitz-Geoffrey. After the Dissolution the building fell gradually to decay ; a pointed arch alone remains.

We pursue our course through an open and thinly-peopled country for several miles. W. of the road, 1m., lies *W. Hanningfield*, and about 1½m. E., *E. Hanningfield*. The latter has a good Perp. Ch. The former has a Ch., also of the Perp. period, with a curious tower of wood, surmounted by a spire. *S. Hanningfield* Ch. contains some portions of the ancient Norman building.

At 9½m. from Chelmsford we arrive at

*Rettendon*, or, as the village is more commonly called, *Battle Bridge*. Here the road crosses the river Crouch on a stout wooden bridge. Much trade is carried on here in coal and iron ; the river up to this point being navigable for barges of 50 tons. *Rettendon Ch.* stands on a bold hill, close to the high road, and about 1m. N. of the river. It is a stately Perp. pile, with a noble stone tower, from whose summit a fine panoramic view of grove, and dale, and winding river may be enjoyed. The interior contains a piscina, portions of the ancient screen, and some richly-carved old benches.

*Runwell* lies about 1m. S.W. In the Ch., against the S. wall of the chancel, is a black stone slab with arms and inscription to Sir Thomas Raymond, a judge of the King's Bench, who died 1685. There are also monuments to the memory of former residents of *Flemyngs*, an estate in this parish, *Tyrells*, *Sulyards*, and *Parkers*.

*Flemyngs Hall* was burnt down many years ago. It

was anciently a large and magnificent mansion, and, as Mr. Collier observes in his "History of Essex," "must in the 14th and 15th centuries have overshadowed its humbler neighbours, and by its extent and grandeur have distinguished Runwell from all the surrounding parishes. . . . A curious ancient gable and a noble window are nearly all that time and the flames have left of this palatial residence, which, it has been remarked, must have been one of the most attractive spots in the neighbourhood of the metropolis."

For about 2m. we keep to the E. We then turn towards the S. in order to reach the picturesque village of *Raleigh*, or *Rayleigh*, formerly a market-town, and still a place of some importance. This was the head of the extensive barony of Sweyn, or Suene, the Saxon lord, to whom is ascribed—on no good foundation—the erection of certain formidable earthworks still extant, though dilapidated by age. An artificial mound is here surrounded by a broad, deep ditch, and defended by a lofty vallum. It was probably a Saxon fortalice, intended to oppose the marauding Norsemen. Inns, the Crown and Golden Lion.

Raleigh Ch. is a goodly Perp. building, with a spacious nave, a chancel, N. and S. aisles, and a lofty tower crowned by a short spire. The walls are embattled, and the entire structure seems stout enough to have been employed, if necessary, as a defensive stronghold. An ancient altar tomb exhibits some beautiful Decor. work.

Turn we now to the N.E., and then winding through the coppices of Bull Wood, diverge to *Hawkwell*, where there is a neat little E. Eng. Ch. To the N.W., 4m., lies *Hockley*, famous for its mineral waters, which have been highly commended by Dr. Granville. Its Ch., seated on a hill, is very ancient, and possesses a curious octagonal tower. The interior is worth examination.

In the neighbouring parish of *Ashingdon* a great battle was fought between the Danes under Canute and Thurkill, and the Saxons under Edmund Ironside, resulting in the victory of the former. Numerous *tumuli* may be visited in the vicinity.

Of *Rockford* we have spoken elsewhere (p. 125).

*g. Colchester to Bishop's Stortford=30m.*

[Main Points: Lexden, Stanway, Marks Tey, Little



Tey, Coggeshall, Braintree, Rayne, Dunmow, Little Canfield, Takeley, Bishop's Stortford.]

Our road from Colchester to Bishop's Stortford traverses a level and completely pastoral country from E. to W.

*Lexden* is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Colchester, on the border of Lexden Heath, and on the S. bank of the Colne. It contains some neat and well-built houses, and the road from Colchester is dotted with pleasant villas. The heath, now enclosed, presents the traces of several entrenchments. A fine sheet of water and some masses of foliage adorn Lexden Park. The lodge is a moated farmhouse. The Ch., a neat Gothic structure, was rebuilt in 1821.

2m.—*Stanway*, or *Stone Way*, so named from its position on the Stone Street, or Roman *viâ*, which we shall follow up on our route to Bishop's Stortford, boasts of several handsome "seats," of the remains of an ancient Ch., destroyed in the 17th century, and of a small Roman building, dedicated to St. Ethelbright.

At *Marks Tey* (see p. 110) we cross the line of the Great Eastern Railway. *Little Tey* lies just beyond, an interesting village. *Coggeshall*, 9m. from Colchester, is agreeably situated on the river Blackwater (see p. 58), whose course the road now follows for about 3m. Here traces have been discovered of the old Roman Road between Colchester (Camalodunum) and St. Albans (Verulamium). Boadicea must have traversed this route after her defeat of the Romans at Colchester. In this neighbourhood lie *Pattiswick*, with its pleasant little Ch. dating from the reign of Edward I.; and *Stisted*, a well-wooded village in the centre of some agreeable scenery.

At 14m. we reach *Braintree*, on the Brain, already described (see pp. 61, 62, 119).

About 2m. beyond, with its modern Ch. on the right of the high road, stands *Rayne*, "a neat and pleasant village." Dr. Richard Kidder, Bishop of Bath and Wells, was rector here from 1664 to 1674. The old Roman road between Colchester and Verulamium (St. Albans) ran through this village.

Through an uninteresting bucolic district we pass on to

*Dunmow* (p. 79), so long associated with conjugal happiness and fitches of bacon, and soon arrive at the pretty village of *Canfield*, near the principal source of the river Roding. The Ch., a building in Decor. style, has been

carefully restored. It has a curious painting on the eastern wall.

The remainder of our route to Bishop's Stortford lies through a very open country, relieved by occasional patches of woodland, but somewhat sparsely peopled. At *Takely*, 6m. W. of Dunmow, there stands an interesting Ch. The manor belongs to New College, Oxford, which received it from its founder, William of Wykeham.

*h. Colchester to Haverhill* = 81½m.

As this road traverses for nearly the entire distance the valley of the Colne, already described in our notice of that river, we need only indicate here the principal villages which the traveller will pass, and refer him for an account of them to pp. 46-68.

At 1½m. W., Lexden. Wake Colne, 7m. N.W. Earl's Colne, 2m. W. Halstead, 4½m. N.W., and 46m. from London. Sible Hedingham, 4m. Great Yeldham, 8m. Ridgewell, 8m. Whixhoe (Suffolk), 2m. Haverhill, 4½m. = 81½m.

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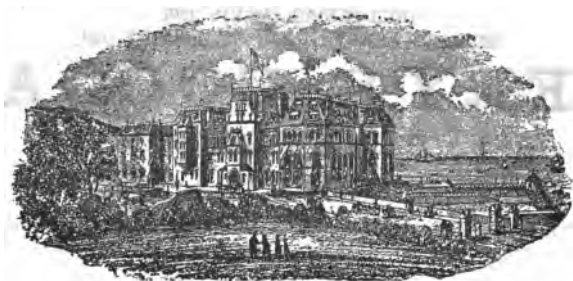
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